Daily Report

Latin America

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Cuba

Malmeirca Meets Outgoing Iranian Envoy

LD1306144088 Tehran IRNA in English 1427 GMT 13 Jun 88

[Text] Tehran, June 13, IRNA—Outgoing Iranian Ambassador to Havana Mohammad Hasan Fadai-Fard called for expansion of Tehran-Havana relations in all areas, in a meeting with Cuban foreign minister today.

In response Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca Peoli termed the Islamic Revolution of Iran as a "determining factor" which greatly changed fate of world nations. "Your revolution should be known to all oppressed nations," he told Fadai-Fard.

The Islamic Revolution is still a young and enthusiastic force which has taught world people great lessons, Malmierca said.

UK Ambassador Says Bilateral Relations 'Good'

FL1506140088 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 15 Jun 88

[Text] Andrew Palmer, British ambassador to Cuba, has said that relations between the two countries are good and are improving. In an interview with PRENSA LATINA, Palmer indicated that meetings between the two governments are developing in a realistic manner and with respect toward their respective political systems.

CEMA Meeting on Aircraft Production Ends

FL1706211588 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1953 GMT 17 Jun 88

[Text] Cuba's participation in the production of new generation IL-114 aircraft parts has been confirmed at the end of the fifth meeting of the CEMA committee bureau branch No 16 for machine building. Jose Cameno, from the Science and Technology Department of the Cuban Civil Aeronautics Institute and member of the national delegation, said that as a result of the meeting, an agreement was also reached regarding the production of parts and components for agricultural aviation. He noted that Poland proposed to share this production which, in its first stage, has large export possibilities to socialist countries. He said a Cuban delegation of experts will visit the USSR next October to familiarize itself with Soviet technology applied to aircraft production.

Heavy Rains Could Bring Good Agricultural Year

FL1606180188 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 16 Jun 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] The first estimates of losses in the agriculture sector from the intense rains at the beginning of June have just been reported.

Overall, the abundant rain has benefited us. However, heavy losses have occurred in 1,000 caballerias of tubers, grains, and vegetables. People are currently working hard to replant those crops. Tomato, red pepper, coffee, and pineapple crops have been the most affected.

The Agriculture Ministry has made assurances that the supply of tubers and vegetables to the population will be maintained. Naturally, the sale of these products will be delayed because the caballerias that were flooded are now being replanted.

Fertilizers were also affected. It is estimated that close to 6,000 tons of this product were damaged but a good portion of this has been recovered and can be used.

Approximately 20 dams were partially destroyed and dozens of kilometers of irrigation canals are rapidly being reconstructed.

Each province has a recovery program. The beneficial affect of the heavy rains should be utilized to the fullest.

It is necessary to keep the sugarcane fields from being overrun by weeds. We need a good harvest next year and that harvest needs to be guaranteed now. The rains should increase the yield per area, but we have to prevent weeds from competing with the sugarcane. After 10 years of drought we have an opportunity to have a good agricultural year.

The heavy rainfall will be positive if we use it to the fullest to minimize our losses. Nothing should be overlooked in guaranteeing the success of our primary industry.

Dominican Republic

Balaguer Dismisses Defense, Industry Ministers

PA1706213688 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2054 GMT 17 Jun 88

[Text] Santo Domingo, 17 Jun (EFE)—Today Dominican President Joaquin Balaguer dismissed Defense Minister General Antonio Imbert Barrera and Industry and Commerce Minister Rafael Marion-Landais.

In a decree, Balaguer appointed General Elias Wessin y Wessin, retired, as new defense minister, and Juan Valerio Sanchez, as minister of industry and commerce. Wessin y Wessin is presently minister of the interior and police, and Valerio Sanchez is president of the Federation of Dominican Businessmen.

Balaguer reinstated Wessin y Wessin in the National Army with the rank of major general and with a temporary promotion to lieutenant general for the duration of his service as defense minister.

Similarly, President Balaguer appointed Antonio Leger Brito director of the National Budget Office to replace Jose Antonio Guzman Alvarez, who was appointed comptroller general of the Republic to replace Leger Brito.

The presidential decree also appoints Jose Manuel Trullols vice minister of industry and commerce to replace Eduardo Antun Ballet.

Wessin Reinstatement Surprise

FL1806120988 Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network in Spanish 1127 GMT 18 Jun 88

[Text] Yesterday President Joaquin Balager reinstated General Elias Wessin y Wessin as major general of the Army. He also immediately named Wessin secretary of the Dominican Armed Forces.

Wessin is replacing Lieutenant General Antonio Imbert Barreras, who, just moments before, denied that a coup was developing.

President Balaguer also appointed businessman Juan Valerio Sanchez as industry and commerce secretary. Valerio Sanchez is replacing Eng Rafael Marion Landais, who had made some polemic remarks.

In accordance to decree No 291, Balaguer named Antonio Leger Brito as new director of the National Budget Office. This position was held by Lic Jose Antonio Guzman Alvarez, who was appointed comptroller general of the Republic.

Another appointment made by the president was that of Jose Manuel Trullos as deputy minister of industry and commerce. He is replacing Eduardo Antun Ballet.

The reinstatement of Gen Wessin, who was minister of interior and police, surprised everyone, especially the former strongman of the CEFA [Armed Forces Training Center].

Wessin was retired from the military at the end of the 1965 revolution when Prof Juan Bosch became president of the Dominican Republic.

After living for some time in exile, Wessin returned to the country and founded the Democratic Quisqueyan Party, PQD, an organization that strongly opposed Balaguer's government for 12 years. Wessin and his PQD made an alliance with leftists and the Dominican Revolutionary Party. A plot that Wessin led to overthrow President Balaguer was revealed in 1981 and he was expelled from the country. In 1986 Wessin joined the Reformist Party making it possible for Balaguer to return to power.

During the past few months Wessin has spoken in favor of reelecting Balaguer and has publicly said that Balaguer is the only man who can continue the country's progress.

Imbert Named to New Post

FL1806124588 Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network in Spanish 1141 GMT 18 Jun 88

[Text] Hours after being replaced as Armed Forces secretary, Major General Antonio Imbert Barreras was appointed inspector general at the service of the president of the Republic.

Last night President Balaguer issued Decree No 293-10-88 appointing Maj Gen Imbert Barreras as inspector general. The decree states that the appointment is made in consideration of Imbert Barreras' high level of civic service and because of the historic significance the population places on his service. The note also stresses the high merits of the major general and the services he has rendered to the country, which have contributed to the advancement of the nation's institutions.

Yesterday Lieutenant General Wessin y Wessin, who is heads the Democratic Quisqueyan Party and who recently made remarks in favor of Balaguer's reelection, was appointed secretary of the Dominican Armed Forces.

Hours before he was replaced, Imbert Barreras made statements to the press at the National Palace reaffirming his support for constitutional order and denying the existence of a coup plot in the country.

Imbert Barreras, former head of the Armed Forces institutions of the nation, congratulated Wessin on his appointment and added: God be with you.

'Concern' Increases

PA1806033688 Paris AFP in Spanish 0051 GMT 18 Jun 88

[Article by Miguel Longo]

[Excerpts] Santo Domingo, 17 Jun (AFP)—Alarmist rumors about the health of President Joaquin Balaguer (who is 80 years old and blind) and about a possible "coup d'etat," as well as the anxiety caused by inflation, are the backdrop for the changes made in the government by the Dominican president today.

The fact that Defense Minister General Antonio Imbert, 66, was replaced only minutes after he made a statement denying any possibility of a coup or any possible illness of the president has only increased the concern prevailing in the country.

The wave of disquieting rumors, the first such phenomena in the 22 months of Balaguer's fifth term, had spread so widely last night that in the late evening both the minister secretary of the Presidency and the administrative secretary felt obliged to issue denials.

The rumors reflect a certain unease within Dominican society, which has been subjected over the past 12 months to a series of power outages, deficiences in basic services such as transportation, and, above all, spiralling inflation. [passage omitted]

New Defense Minister General Wessin y Wessin, 63, has been a brilliant military chief whose career was cut short by the civil war in 1965. Several years later he became a political leader. His term is expected to bring a change in direction within the Armed Forces, although they are expected to respect democratic constitutionality.

Valerio Sanchez' appointment has raised expectations regarding what can be achieved in the area of prices by a businessmen respected by his peers, who is at the same time very close to the president, who feels that a large portion of the country's inflation is due to speculation.

The ministerial changes were completed with the appointment of Rafael Peralta Perez, a longtime leader of Balaguer's Social Christian Reformist Party, as minister of the interior.

Haiti

Manigat on Insecurity Issue, Army Situation

FL1606222088 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in French 1418 GMT 16 Jun 88

[News conference by President Leslie Manigat with foreign and domestic reporters from the Salle des Bustes of the National Palace in Port-au-Prince—live]

[Excerpts] [Manigat] [Passage omitted] The circumstances of the moment make this press conference truly special. The very fact that it is taking place is confirmation of the democratic desire for openness that characterizes the different initiatives not only of the president of the Republic, head of the executive branch, but the entire government, led by Prime Minister Martial Celestin. [passage omitted]

Before answering your questions, I would as usual like to say a few introductory words about certain points that I consider important and to which I particularly wish to call attention. First, the matter of toxic waste, because it is so current. [passage omitted]

The work is being done by a team of experts. [passage omitted] Thus, the operation is under way and I wish to inform you, proudly and gratefully, that the firm in question is doing the Haitian people and government a favor. It is doing it for free. [passage omitted] I proudly and gratefully announce that this will not cost Haiti one red cent.

The second point: The matter of insecurity. I have spoken at length on this matter in earlier press conferences and in the "Friendly Chats With the Haitian People." I will therefore not go into it at length here. I wish only to say that the police work involved in struggling against insecurity requires patience. Remember the foreign examples I have given. The effectiveness of the work is revealed little by little as the investigations and patrolling are effected.

We have reinforced security measures. We have augmented the means given the forces of order for their patrols. The Port-au-Prince metropolitan area has been divided into (?sectors) of police responsibility. Therefore, we are, of course, beginning to get results.

Thanks to the forces of order, we have caught certain, [repeats himself] certain people. We have had three such successes in the struggle against insecurity. The latest—not yet announced publicly but all over the streets in the form of rumors—is the capture by the Dessalines Barracks forces of one of the terrorist networks that operated both in Port-au-Prince and in the provinces. This is an important success, one which is to the credit of this sector in charge of combating insecurity.

We are therefore feeling positive, optimistic. It is a small network of 11 persons, only 1 of whom is a civilian. The matter is under investigation and the public will be given detailed information when it becomes necessary. But given that (?there is tension) in the streets, I wanted to tell you that this is one of the latest successes in the struggle against insecurity.

A third matter, very hot: The (?Army). As you can see, we avoid no subject. I would like to make three comments in this connection, regarding what happened. You have received the texts. The texts have been published.

The first is a personal and private comment of a philosophical nature, and I beg your indulgence for making it in public. God is great. Life goes on and the rule of law emerges from this strengthened.

The second is again personal, but this time of a strategic nature. It has a historical dimension in an evolutionary sense. As I have often said, we are in the midst of a democratic learning experience. What happened can be considered as an institutional adjustment, within the framework of the democratic principle of supremacy of civilian power and constitutional prescriptions.

Last, I will make a third comment, publicly and politically, the tenor of which is prospective. The civilian government and the military institution have together and in concert given the nation a lesson in patriotism and democracy. This lesson allows us to feel optimistic about the future of democracy in Haiti.

I wish to stress the fact that this lesson was given together and in concert by the civilian government and the military institution. To both, thus, falls the merit of this felicitous solution. Both must be congratulated.

I salute this conjunction, which has permitted democracy and principle to triumph. The door is wide open to the continued application of the government's policy—once again publically accepted, and thus confirmed, by the Army—of democraticizing and modernizing the Armed Forces and placing them at the service of development.

I feel this indeed constitutes a beautiful example of democracy. A confrontation did not, did not [repeats himself] take place. There was, instead, a harmonizing dialogue that resulted once again in a solution based on principle that was in the national interest, for the good of the nation and for the consolidation of democracy here in Haiti.

I therefore salute the Haitian Armed Forces as a military institution, for having done its duty, in connection with the last 2 days. I am referring, of course, to the solution found yesterday.

With this said, life goes on. The government is at work. [passage omitted]

As regards international cooperation, I don't think it is necessary any longer to stress its spectacular results. Let us simply say that a series of meetings of mixed commissions for cooperation will be held here in Haiti, beginning this summer and continuing until the end of the year.

We like these mixed commissions. Why? Because there is dialogue, discussion, negotiation. Aid programs are discussed in these mixed commissions. We have an opportunity to state our needs. Aid is not given (?in a unilateral manner) based on foreign initiative but is, rather, conceived, discussed, and adopted following a dialogue. That is why we cherish the mixed commissions. And we would really like for the great powers—certain ones, that is, because France has already formed a mixed committee with us, as has China— should their aid be resumed and developed, to also understand why we need this kind of negotiation within a mixed commission, so that (?we can really formulate) a coherent development policy. We cannot formulate a true national policy working in an incoherent manner through 300 non-governmental organizations in a hurly-burly fashion that is unacceptable to Haiti.

I do not deny that certain non-governmental organizations contribute much to Haiti. I know how valuable they are. What I am saying is that the policy of going through many such organizations is not conducive to the coherent national policy that Haiti needs. We cannot afford to turn the Ministry of Agriculture into a collection, into a mosaic, of projects. We cannot afford to turn the Ministry of Health into a group of scattered projects. We must have a coherent policy in keeping with the objectives decided on by the nation, particularly for the development of an integrated society. Social justice must be included in the general policy.

Social justice is not always present when there are many small, isolated, incoherent (?packages), which leads to duplication of efforts and, more importantly, duplication of costs because money is spent on equipment for each organization, whereas there is a national, government, equipment rolling-stock depot to constitute. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified reporter] [Words indistinct] how you feel about the decision reached by the High Command and, second, do you now entertain good relations with the Armed Forces High Command?

[Manigat] [Passage omitted] The first question has to do essentially with the two texts, which say it all. Now, if you mean my relations with the Army command, don't forget that the very [word indistinct] of the Army mentions a meeting with the chief of state. This meeting lasted more than 4 hours. Following this meeting, the Army, the Army command, decided—agreed—to issue the communique that afternoon. This communique is the result of the meeting. That is why I stress that it is a solution reached in concert. I said this. Thus, you already had the answer when I said: Yes, the result was obtained after conferring with each other. I believe this action means [words indistinct] good relations. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified reporter] Mr President, last 26 April you accused the Duvalierists of being responsible for the insecurity prevailing in Haiti. Later, at the Chamber of Deputies, the prime minister had a lot of trouble because the National Assembly refused to agree to his (?heading) the police. Recently, a change was to be made within the Army, a reform affecting certain high-ranking officers in rather key posts in the national military life. (?My real) question is to ask you, within the context of the current realities, how you think these measures—that is, the accusation made on 26 April, this reform that was to be effected, and so forth—can guarantee democracy in Haiti when there are currently Venezuelans in the country, (?circulating, and sometimes armed), and there are rumors to the effect that certain Venezuelans among this group are in conflict with Haitian citizens. That is the question.

[Manigat] I don't see a question. I see many affirmations I will hasten to correct so that you will not persist in error, since you are a man of good faith. [passage omitted]

I see in what you say several bits of erroneous information. They are false, and I must therefore rectify the information, because I do believe you asked the question in good faith. I always assume people speak in good faith.

First of all, you say that I accused the Duvalierists. I never accused the Duvalierists. I accused certain Duvalierist sectors, which is an entirely different thing.

In the final analysis, who and what exactly are you calling Duvalierists? I know Duvalierists who are peaceable men, who (?go about) their business, who do not even concern themselves with politics, yet everyone nevertheless knows that they were Duvalierists.

I know others who do engage in politics but who do so within the framework of the existing institutions, people who tried to do so. Some of these were disqualified under a certain article of the Constitution, but I know (?others who have been) ministers [words indistinct] and who are now behaving in a perfectly proper manner.

Why (?should I seek to implicate) them? Not at all! It doesn't make any sense to say [words indistinct]. Give us credit for having the objectivity and the intelligence to be able to make the necessary distinctions.

Come on, now! Really! No, we never accused the Duvalierists. We said there were certain sectors that had chosen the paths of subversion or violence. This is a well-known fact.

There is no point in my naming names. In my capacity as president of the Republic, it is not up to me to name names.

However, just because two or three individuals form groups with a view to violent action, we cannot come up with a given definition of the Duvalierists. Of course we can't!

Most of the Duvalierists want peace, want to join the mainstream, want reconciliation. Like us, they too have been disillusioned, have been victimized, by Duvalierism.

Understand this, do understand it! This is a psychological and political reality that must be understood in this country. No single group of men should be ostracized.

We are in favor of national reconciliation. Of course there are diehards. They are to be found in all (?camps)—the right, the left, the center. But one need not generalize simply because there are diehards! No!

Most of the country today, including the vast majority of those you could call the Duvalierists, wants harmony and peace, in order to get to work.

So you see, that is one bit of information that must be corrected right away. [passage omitted]

What is important in the events is that, in the final analysis, they served to reaffirm the need for a dialogue at the institutional level in order to reach positive solutions. That is how we ourselves see these events. We see nothing else in them. [comment by unidentified speaker indistinct]

OK, as regards the Venezuelans, listen, listen [repeats himself]. There again, there are some things I do not even bother to clutter my mind with. It was totally involuntary. For me, the very fact that I didn't answer says it all. It is absurd—and please excuse (?the use of this term)—to state the problem this way. [passage omitted] These Venezuelans are here to build, to build [repeats himself]. [passage omitted] These men are not armed.

Beware! You must not, by propagating erroneous information, help paint a negative picture of a presence that is making a contribution here out of solidarity and in the name of Haitian-Venezuelan brotherhood under the banner of Petion and Bolivar. [passage omitted] On the contrary, I salute their presence. I am grateful to them for coming, very modestly, to help build housing for the homeless of this country. I hereby officially express my gratitude to them.

[Unidentified reporter, speaking in Creole] Regarding the toxic waste problem, I would like to know what political decision he is taking to bring to trial the people responsible for the toxic waste. I am referring specifically to the Paul brothers, under the name of Livestock Breeders of the West.

Also, regarding yesterday's problem involving the Haitian Armed Forces High Command: Since the Constitution says the chief of state names the commander in chief, I would like to know if you are planning to name a commander in chief.

[Manigat] There has been a toxic waste affair. We took it seriously. We are dealing with it. There is a dossier on it. This dossier was opened before we came to power. It is not up to me to intervene in this matter. Work on this dossier is proceeding normally. [passage omitted]

When you ask me questions, ask me questions within my sphere of competence, because you are asking me to intervene in spheres in which I cannot intervene because the Constitution does not empower me to do so. [passage omitted]

As regards your second question, I must admit that I do not understand it. And since I don't understand it, I cannot answer it. [passage omitted] [indistinct comment by unidentified speaker] No. No, I have already given you the answer that is appropriate and that I am able to give you. I can read the Constitution along with you. Indeed, the Constitution does give me the right that you have brought to my attention. Another question please!

[Reporter, speaking in English] Mr President, I'm (Don Skanki), the Caribbean bureau chief of THE LOS ANGELES TIMES. One of the principal beneficiaries of your action yesterday appears to be Colonel Jean-Claude Paul, who, as you know, is a very controversial figure in the United States. Can you please explain your reasoning in rescinding General Namphy's order, and say whether you meant a personal defense of Col Paul by your action?

[Manigat] The very way you put the question to me, dear sir, leads me to believe that you have perhaps not been correctly informed as to what happened in the past 2 days. Since you [words indistinct] it will be a pleasure for me [words indistinct].

You will see, in this communique, that is it not a question of individuals. At no time did the Government of the Republic address the problem of an individual. At no time, dear sir! It is not a question of individuals. It was a question of a principle and it was on the basis of this principle that the matter was resolved, not on the basis of any individual. It is on the question of principles. I have given you the text. You are a professional journalist. Analyze the text and you will see.

Sir, allow me to add for you, since you are an American friend, that the solution was reached on the basis of the very democratic principle of supremacy of a civilian government and respect for constitutional norms.

Say this for me to your country's public: A solution was reached in keeping with the eminently democratic principle of supremacy of civilian government and respect for Constitutional norms—values American public opinion holds very dear.

[Unidentified reporter, speaking in Creole] Mr President, on several occasions we have learned of various Army corps having attaches. There are Criminal Investigations Department attaches, Dessalines Barracks attaches, and Fort Dimanche attaches.

I would like to know what exactly these attaches are and how many of them there are in the country. Could this be another secret service? That is my first question.

My second question has to do with decentralization.

[Manigat] You may ask one question, dear Madame. Choose. Choose.

[Reporter] All right. The first question.

[Manigat] All right. You know, Madame, I hope that you ask your questions with [words indistinct] normality in mind; that is, what normally happens in institutions of a similar nature in all countries of the world. I am certain this is the case. That is why I am going to take your question as having been asked in a friendly manner and I am going to answer it in an equally friendly manner.

As far as I can claim to have knowledge about what is going on—and I am in a position to be well-informed about this kind of thing—they are people who provide intelligence [agents d'information], which police and security forces in every country in the world have.

If I remember correctly from my childhood days, we used to call them detectives before. We may today be calling them attaches, or whatever, but in any case, they are simply auxiliary police elements who inform the police. This is normal in all countries of the world. All over the world, one seeks to know how things are going, what is going on, etc. There is a problem of information. It is thus a simple problem of information. They are in the service of the police.

That is all I know about these attaches. I am telling you what I know. [passage omitted]

Namphy-Led Coup Removes Manigat From Presidency

Namphy, Others Forcibly Retired

PA1806013788 Paris AFP in Spanish 0123 GMT 18 Jun 88

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 17 Jun (AFP)—A communique issued by the Presidency today announced that Haitian President Leslie Manigat has retired Lieutenant General Henri Namphy, commander in chief of the Army, for having ordered the transfer of certain officers on Tuesday in violation of "constitutional norms."

The acting commander of the Haitian Army will be Colonel Morton Gousse, who has been promoted to brigadier general, until the Senate approves a new commander in chief.

Generals Carl Michel Nicolas, Army chief of staff, and Wilthan Lherisson, also a member of the General Staff, were also retired for "insubordination," because they had begun to implement certain measures that had been annulled by President Manigat.

These measures include the transfer to Army Headquarters of Colonel Jean-Claude Paul, commander of the Dessalines Battalion, the Haitian Army's most important battalion.

Further on Namphy Dismissal

PA1806044388 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0421 GMT 18 Jun 88

[Excerpts] Port-au-Prince, 17 Jun (DPA)—Haitian President Leslie Manigat today unexpectedly took over as commander in chief of the Armed Forces after dismissing General Henri Namphy, who was head of a military government until February, and two other generals from the General Staff.

The president announced the measure in person in a communique that he read over television in Port-au-Prince. [passage omitted]

In the communique, Manigat accused the generals of having carried out a number of transfers without his knowledge or consent. [passage omitted]

The question that some political observers are asking in Haiti now is: What will be the next step?

It is speculated that if he follows the present trend, Manigat might name himself president-for-life. [passage omitted]

It was also reported that General Williams Regala will remain in charge of the Defense Ministry while General Morton Gousse has been temporarily appointed Army commander.

Manigat Issues Decree

FL1806143588 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in French 0100 GMT 18 Jun 88

[Text] Haitian Armed Forces: Reform Within the High Command.

According to a decree read on RTNH television tonight, there has been a reform in the High Command of the Haitian Armed Forces. Here is the text of the decree:

[In a similar report carried by Port-au-Prince Radio Haiti-Inter in French at 0040 GMT on 18 June, the decree begins: Leslie Francois Manigat, president of the Republic, on 17 June 1988, in the 185th year of independence, in view of Articles 136, 143, and 285 of the Constitution;]

Considering that it is the duty of the president of the Republic, the chief of state, to ensure that the Constitution is respected and applied by all, and to ensure the stability of the nation's institutions;

Considering that the executive branch of government is empowered to, within the time period prescribed by the Constitution, effect all reforms deemed necessary within the public administration in general and within the court system;

Considering that the president of the Republic is constitutionally the head of the Haitian Armed Forces, and that even though he is not called upon to command them personally, no important decision regarding the Armed Forces should have been made without his knowledge and approval;

Considering that the transfer and retirement of high-ranking and other officers was ordered on 14 June 1988 by the commander in chief of the Haitian Armed Forces in violation of constitutional norms;

Considering that certain members of the Haitian Armed Forces High Command had already begun to apply these unconstitutional measures despite the 15 June High Command communique temporarily rescinding them;

Considering that such conduct constituted, on the part of the commander in chief and his officers, insubordination toward the constitutional head of the Armed Forces;

Considering that it is necessary to return prestige to the Armed Forces, restore to them military values, and reestablish the hierarchy so as to open the way to democratization and modernization and place the Armed Forces at the service of the nation;

At the recommendation of the prime minister, following deliberation in the council of ministers, [the president] decrees:

Article One—The following Haitian Armed Forces officers, having reached retirement age, are released from their current duties and retired:

Lieutenant General Henri Namphy
Brigadier General Carl Michel Nicolas
Brigadier General Wilthan Lherisson

Article Two—Colonel Morton Gousse is promoted to Brigadier General and shall, while awaiting Senate ratification of the appointment of a new commander in chief, serve as interim commander in chief of the Haitian Armed Forces.

Article Three—This decree shall be published and carried out at the request of the prime minister; the minister of defense, Armed Forces, and civic service; the minister of interior and decentralization; and the minister of information, mass education, and tourism, each acting in his particular sphere of competency.

Issued at the National Palace on 17 June 1988 by President Leslie F. Manigat.

[Signed] Martial L. Celestin, prime minister

We remind listeners that Lt Gen Henri Namphy was promoted to the position of commander in chief of the Army in September of 1987.

Gonaives Pro-Army Slogans Noted

FL1806155088 Port-au-Prince Radio Antilles Internationales in French 1153 GMT 18 Jun 88

[Excerpts] Local news: An astonished Gonaives population yesterday noted slogans hostile to Manigat and favorable to the Army on the walls of public buildings, buses, and other transportation vehicles, etc. [passage omitted] Let's hear from our permanent correspondent for the upper Artibonite, (Herman Hermano):

[(Hermano), speaking in Creole]) [Words indistinct] in Gonaives, we saw many walls all over town bearing the slogan "Down With Leslie Manigat! Long Live the Army!" This slogan was also on several private residences and (?on) public buildings in town; for example, on the Teleco [Telecommunications d'Haiti] building, on walls of the Gonaives law courts, and on the walls of several other offices—everywhere justice is dispensed. [passage omitted] This same refrain has also been written on several parked buses. Also, [words indistinct] this same slogan of "Down With Manigat! Long Live the Army!" was written all along the Avenue des Dattes. [passage omitted]

More on Gonaives Situation

FL1806184588 Port-au-Prince Radio Haiti-Inter in Creole 1600 GMT 18 Jun 88

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] The decision to retire certain members of the Armed Forces High Command was made last night. Shortly thereafter, there were military patrols in the streets and people have reported shooting in several sections of Port-au-Prince.

In Gonaives, sharp words against the government have been written on walls in town. Our Gonaives correspondent will give us further details.

[Correspondent] [Passage omitted] The news of the (?retirement) of several high-ranking Army officers hit the town of Gonaives like a lightning bolt.

From approximately 2040 to 2050 [0040—0050 GMT, 18 June] when the communique was read over television, everyone began contacting everyone else, to see if they had heard the news. [passage omitted]

After the announcement, small groups of people formed all over Gonaives to discuss the event. Some were saying that the president is beginning to take things in hand. Others say that in crossing the stream, the president has stepped on a caiman. [passage omitted]

All to be seen in town were a few olive green-clad soldiers patrolling, as they have been doing for some time.

On Saturday morning [18 June], Gonaives awakened very calmly. Everyone is going about their business. The only thing is that many people who are usually out early stayed in front of their radios today, to hear what is being said.

[Announcer] According to rumors, the Army was put on alert immediately following the communique and that is why all those patrols were in the street.

Pro-Namphy Demonstration Held

FL1806183888 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 18 Jun 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Shortly after the announcement that General Namphy had been retired by President Manigat, barricades appeared yesterday in Petit Goave, on the road south. This morning, demonstrators who are partisans of the general set these barricades on fire, but by mid-morning our Petit Goave correspondent reported that the police had managed to clear the road. Let's listen:

[Correspondent] They had erected big barricades on National Highway No 2, where they had set tires on fire. All cars using National Highway No 2 had to stop, from last night to around 0900 today, when the police came and cleared away the barricades.

A group [words indistinct] was demonstrating next to the barricades. According to rumors circulating in town, we haven't seen anything yet—this group has only just begun to erect barricades!

Further on Demonstrations

FL1806184888 Port-au-Prince Radio Haiti-Inter in Creole 1600 GMT 18 Jun 88

[Excerpts] [Announcer] In Petit Goave, there were no antigovernment slogans. There were barricades. [passage omitted]

This morning's first reports were that National Highway No 1 was cut off to traffic.

We will contact our Petit Goave correspondent.

[Correspondent] [Passage omitted] Barricades were erected on National Highway No 2 in the vicinity of Nan Sinistres [catastrophe victims' neighborhood], which is a small, poor area where the retired general has his base.

This morning, tires are being set on fire at these barricades. This is why public transportation vehicles are blocked.

We remind listeners that last weekend there were tracts in the streets of Petit Goave that read: Long Live the Army! Down With Manigat!

We are following events and we will keep you informed. This is Radio Haiti-Inter's correspondent in Petit Goave.

[Announcer] A few minutes later, at approximately 1130, our correspondent called back to inform us that these barricades had been lifted but that a demonstration had started in Petit Goave.

[Correspondent] On the night of 17 June, on National Highway No 2, in the Nan Sinistres area, partisans of the retired general erected barricades in protest of the Celestin-/Manigat government's communique retiring the Haitian Army's three highest-ranking officers. This morning the barricades were even bigger, with branches of trees and burning tires. National Highway No 2 was cut off to traffic in the Nan Sinistres area. [passage omitted]

Not a single soldier from the Faustin Soulouques Barracks showed his face at the erected barricades.

At approximately 0900, the Petit Goave military subdistrict commander came with a few soldiers and removed the barricades to open the road to traffic.

Immediately after the soldiers removed the barricades, people went and created panic in the Petit Goave communal marketplace. They reportedly meant to announce further action.

Indeed, at around 1100, 20 people from Nan Sinistres, beating on drums and waving branches, began demonstrating. They were carrying a placard on which was

written: Down With Manigat! Long Live the Army! The demonstration started on National Highway No 2 and entered the town of Petit Goave. The military of Petit Goave arrested one of the demonstrators, named (Dis). The demonstrators are demanding his release.

Also, yesterday at around 1900, an engineer and topographer named (Joseph Laton), whom everyone in Petit Goave knows by the name of Joe, threw himself headfirst into a latrine at his residence. He died instantly. Before Joe killed himself, he took off everything he was wearing and burned it. He left his sandals by the side of the latrine. Then he threw himself into the latrine. The incident has been duly recorded, and Joe's body is at Notre Dame Hospital in Petit Goave.

This is the Radio Haiti-Inter correspondent in Petit-Goave.

[Announcer] [Passage omitted] One of the demonstrators has been arrested by the Petit Goave police, and now it seems the crowd has grown and is demanding the release of the arrested demonstrator.

Fire at Legislature Reported

FL1806185688 Port-au-Prince Radio Haiti-Inter in Creole 1600 GMT 18 Jun 88

[Text] We learned this morning that a fire had broken out on the second story of the Legislative Palace. Our reporters' initial reports indicate that the fire did not cause much damage. The firemen on the scene put out the fire using buckets of water. It seems only a few documents were destroyed.

'Important' Changes Made in Army

PA1906185988 Paris AFP in Spanish 1709 GMT 19 Jun 88

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 19 Jun (AFP)—It was learned today from a reliable source in Port-au-Prince that Haitian President Leslie Manigat and General Morton Gousse, the new commander in chief of the Army, today made important changes in the Armed Forces.

The changes made will lead to the modernization and democratization of the Armed Forces, according to the sources. The changes come in the wake of the forcible retirement of General Henri Namphy on Friday, following Namphy's decision to transfer certain military officers.

The president and the new commander in chief designated three new brigadier generals: Colonels Louis Thony Fils, 55, former chief of the Army Legal Section, who was promoted to chief of staff; Charles Louis, 67, the commander of the Presidential Guard, who was confirmed in his post; and Fritz Antoine, 52, former secretary of state for justice in the provisional government, who was made Army adjutant general.

Colonel Gregoire Figaro, Port-au-Prince chief of police, was retired and replaced by Colonel Roland Chavannes, 49, who is considered a moderate within the Army, and who was formerly in charge of the Traffic Department in the Haitian capital.

Manigat appointed Lieutenant Colonel George Valcin, 38, who recently returned from a year's study at the French Gendarmerie Officers Academy in Melun, as new assistant chief of police, and Captain Renaud Simbert as commander of the Fort Dimanche Military Garrison.

Changes were also made in the Drug Enforcement Department, whose chief, Major Clarel Occyl, was transferred to General Headquarters and replaced by Captain Ramus Sainville, a graduate of the Melun Gendarmerie Academy.

It was learned that the guards customarily assigned to the former commander in chief's estate were also changed. The telephone lines at Namphy's residence were cut and visits to the general are being supervised, although no official source has yet said whether or not he is under house arrest.

There was also no confirmation of a rumor that Major Henri Robert Augustin, Namphy's former aide de camp, has been reassigned as chief of the Army laundry services.

On Friday, the Haitian president made a spectacular announcement that Gen Namphy, commander in chief of the Army, was being retired for insubordination and for having made certain transfers—including that of Colonel Jean-Claude Paul, commander of the powerful Jean Jacques Dessalines Battalion—in violation of constitutional norms.

More on Army Reshuffling

PA2006040188 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0251 GMT 20 Jun 88

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 19 Jun (EFE)—With the approval of Haitian President Leslie Manigat, today Brigadier General Morton Gousse, new acting commander in chief of the Haitian Armed Forces, reshuffled the Army elite through promotions, retirements, transfers, and appointments.

The crisis caused by Namphy's removal seems to have had some effect on Port-au-Prince, where unidentified shooting and grenade explosions were heard tonight. At this moment, there is no information clarifying whether the shooting comes from confrontations among military units.

Until now, the only military man who has been "retired" since Gousse's appointment is Colonel Gregoire Figaro, chief of the Port-au-Prince police, who since the fall of Jean-Claude ("Baby Doc") Duvalier in February had replaced Colonel Albert Pierre, otherwise known as "Ti Boule" ("Bolita"), in that post. Pierre was the chief of the secret service office.

That process [of Army retirements] began after the tense dismissal of Gen Henri Namphy, who was the commander in chief of the Haitian Army until this week. Namphy was accused of creating a "double" anticonstitutional "power" concerning the appointments of military personnel.

Lieutenant Colonel Roland Chavannes, who was in charge of the Port-au-Prince Traffic Deparment, was promoted to colonel and appointed Port-au-Prince police chief.

In addition, there were changes in the directorates of the immigration, traffic, narcotics, and fire departments, as well as in all services linked to the Port-au-Prince police.

Colonel Louis Thony Fils, who was chief of the legal department of the grand general quarter [gran cuartel general], was promoted to brigadier general and appointed chief of the General Staff, replacing Army Brigadier General Carl Michel Nicolas, who was retired.

Cecilio Dorse is the new Army inspector general, replacing Brigadier General Wilthan Lherisson, who was retired. Dorse used to be the Armed Forces general assistant.

The new Armed Forces general assistant is Colonel Fritz Antoine, former commander of the Army Transport Department and recently promoted to brigadier general.

Colonel Prosper Avril, who was inspector of the presidential guard and former member of the provisional government that replaced Jean Claude Duvalier after his exile, was appointed chief of the Haitian Army grand general quarters office of military attaches.

Concerning this reshuffling in the military elite, Anaise Chavenet, director of the Haitian Information Ministry, said that "there are no more vacant posts in the Army high command."

The Army reshuffling takes place when there are rumors in Port-au-Prince that Lt Gen Namphy, former Army commander in chief, may have been hospitalized at a private Port-au-Prince hospital or may have sought refuge at a military camp.

According to Chavenet, however, Gen Namphy is at his house in Lilavois, some 15 km north of Port-au-Prince, under heavy military surveillance after his dismissal and replacement by order of President Manigat last Friday, 17 June.

Namphy Takes National Palace

PA2006031888 Paris AFP in Spanish 0301 GMT 20 Jun 88

[Excerpt] Port-au-Prince, 29 June (AFP)—After a violent shootout, underscored with gunfire, General Henri Namphy, former Army commander in chief who was retired last Friday by President Leslie Manigat, reportedly occupied the national palace tonight and is reportedly controlling the political situation in Haiti.

According to diverse witnesses, many shots and grenade explosions were heard tonight in Port-au-Prince.

The shooting, coming from jeeps and private vehicles, whose armed occupants were not identified, occurred in the Campo de Marte zone in the downtown part of the Haitian capital, causing panic in the city, which was abandoned in minutes by the pedestrians and drivers.

The public transportation service between Port-au-Prince and Petion Ville was suspended following the shooting, which lasted some 15 minutes.

Manigat's Residence Surrounded

PA2006034588 Paris AFP in Spanish 0334 GMT 20 Jun 88

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 19 Jun (AFP)—General Henri Namphy today took over responsibility for the state in the Haiti's National Palace while the home of President Leslie Manigat tonight remained surrounded by the Presidential Guard, a reliable source told AFP.

More on Namphy Power Seizure

PA2006042688 Paris AFP in Spanish 0404 GMT 20 Jun 88

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 19 Jun (AFP)—After being retired on Friday, today Lieutenant Colonel [as received] Henri Namphy took over the Haitian presidency and announced he was assuming control of the state.

This is the dramatic result of the conflict between Namphy and President Leslie Manigat, who had decided that Namphy should retire.

According to informed sources, at about 2030 General Namphy led the Presidential Guard armored units and entered the National Palace.

Those armored units, the only armored ones in the country, went to pick up Namphy at his home in northern Port-au-Prince, where he was under house arrest.

According to several sources, three officers—Colonel Prosper Avril and Majors Henri-Robert Augustin and Marc Charles—had gone to pick up Namphy to lead the troops that were loyal to him, including—in addition to the Presidential Guards—the intervention corps called the "Leopards."

At about 2300 shooting was again heard near the National Palace, and Gen Namphy sent an ultimatum to the units commanded by Colonel Jean-Claude Paul, who had supported the proposal to retire Namphy.

Meanwhile, it was learned that Gen Namphy took over control of the capital's two police posts, the one at Fort Dimanche and the one known as The Cafeteria. The general sent telegrams to the garrisons in the interior of the country to notify them he once again holds power.

Namphy Calls for 'Trust'

WA2006060788 Paris AFP in English 0558 GMT 20 Jun 88

[Text] Port-au-Prince, June 20 (AFP)—Haiti's sacked Army chief General Henri Namphy seized power Sunday after capturing the Presidential Palace here at the head of an armoured column.

Gen. Namphy, in combat uniform with am Uzi machine-gun in his hand, personally announced the coup d'etat on television. "Have trust in me, trust in the Army, I have trust in you. Long live the Haitian nation for ever united," said Gen. Namphy to the cheers of his soldiers, armed and wearing battledress.

Well-informed sources said earlier that loyalist officer Colonel Jean-Claude Paul, who had backed ousted President Leslie Manigat, had asked for time to surrender.

The sources said Gen. Namphy planned to form an all-military junta with himself at its head. A number of people were reported killed or wounded during fighting, but no figures were available.

Presidential guards took the country's only armoured cars to pick up the general at his home north of the capital, where he had been taken under military escort on Friday after being fired by President Manigat.

With the general at the head of the armoured column they drove to the Presidential Palace and seized power, the sources said.

The villa where Mr. Manigat was staying was surrounded by presidential guards loyal to Gen. Namphy, who had assumed the responsibilities of state, the sources said. Mr. Manigat was elected on February 7 as a moderate in elections held amid bitter accusations of illegalities.

Shooting erupted around the palace shortly before midnight. The sources said the general then issued an ultimatum to troops under the command of Col. Paul who had pressed for him to be fired by Mr. Manigat.

Several sources said Gen. Namphy had won the backing of the presidential guard and the crack Leopards Corps after canvassing support from their commanders, Col. Prosper Avril, Major Henri-Robert Augustin and Maj. Marc Charles.

Soldiers loyal to the general had also seized two police stations in the capital, the sources said, adding that the general had sent telegrams to outlying garrisons to say that he had returned to power.

Deaths, Injuries Reported

PA2006122288 Paris AFP in Spanish 0508 GMT 20 Jun 88

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 20 Jun (AFP)—The fighting tonight [as received], which led to General Henri Namphy's takeover in Haiti, left several dead and injured, although the exact number is not yet known, according to informed sources.

Gen Namphy is in control of the military situation, both in Port-au-Prince and in the rest of the country, according to his supporters.

For his part, Colonel Jean-Claude Paul, commander of the Dessalines Battalion, who supported President Leslie Manigat's decision to retire Namphy, has requested that Gen Namphy grant him "a moral deadline" by which to surrender, according to the same sources.

In the fighting tonight, soldiers of the Presidential Guard, who supported Gen Namphy, clashed with units of the Dessalines Garrison, who were loyal to President Manigat.

Namphy supporters have repeated constantly that a junta will be formed, made up exclusively of military men and headed by Namphy himself.

Manigat Remarks Cited

PA2006122988 Paris AFP in Spanish 0516 GMT 20 Jun 88

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 20 Jun (AFP)—In a telephone conversation with an AFP correspondent, President Leslie Manigat said that despite the coup d'etat staged by General Namphy, "I consider myself the constitutional president of Haiti."

"After adopting a number of measures in line with the Constitution of the Republic, General Henri Namphy, supported by part of the Presidential Guard and retired officers, entered the National Palace after having prepared this strategy in advance," Manigat indicated.

The constitutional president spoke calmly, although he showed signs of fatigue.

Manigat said he was in contact with the garrisons in the rest of the country and that his safety was not threatened.

Manigat Said Exiled to Jamaica

PA2006131788 Paris AFP in Spanish 1210 GMT 20 Jun 88

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 20 Jun (AFP)—Sporadic shooting and some bursts of automatic weapons fire were heard on Monday morning in Port-au-Prince, the streets of which remained deserted after President Leslie Manigat's ouster and General Henri Namphy's takeover last night.

There were no vehicles circulating in the capital and the people remained home.

The state television carried military music and repeated Gen Namphy's message, in which he announced that the Army had taken over last night, at regular intervals.

Meanwhile, there were unconfirmed rumors that President Manigat has been exiled to Jamaica; however, there were still no official reports as to the fate of Colonel Jean-Claude Paul, commander of the Jean-Jacques Dessalines Battalion, a battalion that fought Namphy's soldiers to defend Manigat.

According to differing reports circulating in the capital, Col Paul was wounded or killed in combat, surrendered, committed suicide, or was still at large.

There have been no reports concerning casualties sustained by the Presidential Guard units, which supported Namphy, or Dessalines Battalion soldiers.

More on Manigat's Situation

PA2006154588 Paris AFP in Spanish 1510 GMT 20 Jun 88

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 20 Jun (AFP)—Toppled Haitian President Leslie Manigat was apparently taken to the military airport here to be expelled from the country.

AFP photographers saw a group of people board a military plane at the airport that reportedly included the president, who was toppled Sunday evening by General Henri Namphy.

According to very persistent rumors, Manigat will be taken to Jamaica.

Situation 'Returning to Normal'

PA2006150788 Paris AFP in Spanish 1410 GMT 20 Jun 88

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 20 Jun (AFP)—The situation was slowly returning to normal this morning in Port-au-Prince following a coup d'etat last night carried out by General Henri Namphy against President Leslie Manigat.

AFP has noted that public transportation resumed operations and that the population is again circulating on the streets, although most businesses are still closed.

Two light armored vehicles belonging to the Presidential Guard and two cannons have been placed in front of the National Palace. The AFP correspondent confirmed that the Port-au-Prince headquarters of Manigat's party, the Assembly of National Progressive Democrats (RDNP), located east of this city, was raided and is being guarded by soldiers.

Radio Metropole newsman Clarens Renois spoke to the commander of the Jean-Claude Dessalines Battalion, which, according to certain reports, opposed Gen Namphy's soldiers. The commander told the newsman that he is safe and sound and is still in command of this battalion.

An Army officer denied that there had been clashes between the Dessalines Battalion and the Presidential Guard that supported Namphy.

Jamaica

Seaga on Haiti Situation; Col Paul Said Injured

FL2006152888 Kingston Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 20 Jun 88

[Text] The situation in Haiti as it may affect Jamaica was the question put to Prime Minister Seaga this morning, and he was also asked whether President Manigat would be coming to Jamaica.

[Begin recording] [Seaga] I can't answer whether President Manigat is coming here. I have the same information you have from the broadcasts that have been transmitted since this morning. We were aware that something was happening and [words indistinct] reports that there was a state of uncertainty [passage indistinct] various military personnel, in the Haitian military by President Manigat and General Namphy. On the other hand, I don't think it's wise to comment beyond that at this stage until we ascertain the facts on a more detailed basis. [passage indistinct]

[Reporter] And if President Manigat wants to come here, will we be accepting him?

[Seaga] I said I was [words indistinct] and even so, [words indistinct] until I know what the facts are [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Prime Minister Seaga giving an initial response to questions on the Haiti coup.

[Words indistinct] further: The man who ousted Haitian President Leslie Manigat sought to defend in his country (?against) Gen Namphy, Colonel Jean-Claude Paul, was injured in the military coup last night. According to reliable sources, Paul suffered injuries when troops loyal to General Namphy went to get him. However, it is not yet known if he is seriously injured. It's also understood that Manigat is not hurt.

Survey Shows Salinas With 'Strong Lead'
PA1906155188 Mexico City THE NEWS in English 17 Jun 88 pp 4, 8

[Report by Anne Doremus]

[Excerpts] Carlos Salinas de Gortari will win 61.4 percent of the votes in the July 6 presidential elections, according to a recent survey conducted nationwide by the Department of Political Science of the National Autonomous University (UNAM).

The May survey showed the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) candidate taking a strong lead over his two principal contenders in the electoral race.

Manuel Clouthier of the National Action Party (PAN) took second place with 15.7 percent of the votes, and Cuauhtemoc Cardenas of the National Democratic Front (FDN) third with 11.8 percent, said Dr. Carlos Sirvent G., coordinator of the survey and UNAM professor.

Additional votes for Cardenas as a result of the recent support given to his candidature by the Mexican Socialist Party (PMS) were not considered, he noted. [passage omitted]

Most other surveys showed support for Salinas de Gortari in the capital at 45 percent and higher, with Clouthier falling behind Cardenas, he said. [passage omitted]

Sirvent explained that the survey was conducted in 45 electoral districts located nationwide, which is more than 10 percent of the nation's total.

Those surveyed were selected according to age, sex, profession, and educational level, he said. [passage omitted]

ACNR Supports PMS Candidate Cardenas
PA1806031688 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 15 Jun 88 p 6

[Article by Esperanza Mazariegos: "The National Civic Revolutionary Association Supports Cardenas Candidacy; Withdraws Support for Rosario Ibarra"]

[Excerpt] The National Civic Revolutionary Association [Asociacion Civica Nacional Revolucionaria, ACNR] today publicly announced its support for Cuauhtemoc Cardenas Solorzano's candidacy. In addition, the ACNR stated its willingness to strengthen and expand the organization and the struggle that the groups that are part of the ACNR are carrying out.

ACNR national leaders Mario Saucedo and David Cervantes released this information at a news conference held yesterday.

They said PMS [Mexican Socialist Party] candidate Heberto Castillo's decision to withdrew from the race in favor of Cardenas increases the chance for an overwhelming national rejection of the current government now that several political forces have gathered around a single candidate.

Members of the ACNR national directorate and representatives of ACNR [local] directorates held a special meeting on 10 and 11 June to analyze and discuss the political events that have recently taken place in our country in which the ACNR has been involved.

The ACNR leaders added that at the meeting they decided to realign their electoral strategy based on aspects such as strengthening the struggle for the defense of political and democratic freedom, "which we will hold as a basic principle in our organization's struggle. We will promote the unity of all political, democratic forces, and will defend the people's will during the upcoming 6 July elections."

Similarly, the ACNR leaders said: We will work for the formation of a national broad front that will coordinate and unite the action of all the country's democratic and revolutionary forces.

The ACNR withdrew its support for PRT [Revolutionary Workers Party] presidential candidate Rosario Ibarra de Piedra and formed an alliance with Cuauhtemoc Cardenas. [passage omitted]

Cardenas Demands Action Against Electoral Fraud
PA1906202988 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 17 Jun 88 p 4

[Article by Raul Correa E.]

[Excerpt] Ixtlahuaca, Mexico, 16 June—Cuauhtemoc Cardenas has proposed to the National Action Party [PAN], the Revolutionary Workers Party [PRT], and the Mexican Democratic Party [PDM] that they formalize a national agreement to defend the vote in light of "very clear indications that the government plans to alter the electoral results."

Cardenas Solorzano said that there is already evidence that the government "wants to serve itself the biggest slice of the pie." He told the PRT, PDM, and PAN candidates: "We must make a joint effort to defend the vote against the only group that can alter the electoral results and recognize the altered results officially."

At a rally held at the main plaza here, Cardenas, the presidential candidate of the FDN [National Democratic Front] and PMS [Mexican Socialist Party] said that he will have to use all possible resources to ensure that our will is respected at the polls, as is our constitutional right.

Cardenas said that the indications of a planned fraud are the refusal to print new ballots that carry his name as the PMS candidate, the discovery of private printing houses where

ballots were prepared illegally, the circulation of those ballots within various labor unions, where they were to be marked in favor of the PRI, and the government's refusal to review the electoral registry more carefully.

"We are going to use the same procedures with which they are trying to close off democratic paths that should be open to us. We are going to oppose them with organization, by holding public meetings and rallies, and by other means that demonstrate that we are not a passive people," he said. [passage omitted]

Election Impartiality, Honesty Questioned
PA1906143888 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 16 Jun 88 p 3

[Editorial: "Impartiality and Honesty in Doubt]

[Text] There is usually some difference between the letter of the law and its spirit and application which, in the administration of public affairs, disappears as a result of political activity. In this respect, the Tribunal of Electoral Litigation's [Tribunal de lo Contencioso Electoral] decision rejecting the suit filed by the PMS [Mexican Socialist Party] to revoke the Federal Electoral Commission's [CFE] refusal to reprint election ballots for the presidential election cannot be criticized on grounds that it lacks a legal basis, but because it constitutes a blatant political mistake.

Viewed from a technical and legal standpoint, the idea of reprinting ballots would seem unlikely to sow doubts. In the opinion of one parastatal institution—the National Printing Office [Talleres Graficos de la Nacion]—printing new ballots takes 30-40 days. Based on this opinion, the majority of the CFE (in fact, the majority PRI vote as opposed to the votes of all opposition parties) decided that it was technically impossible to print new ballots. Finally, the Tribunal of Electoral Litigation went along with that decision, without deviating one bit from the majority opinion.

However, although the letter of the law was unquestionably respected, its spirit was lost. In this whole process, what is most evident is an absolute lack of political willingness to take an action which, as we have stated repeatedly, should be taken without any great objections. We have said: Democracy is costly and pluralism demands effort. It is paradoxical that a technical problem—which common sense indicates could be solved—should turn into a political conflict that threatens not only to cloud the 6 July elections, but even casts doubt on the Tribunal of Electoral Litigation. More so when one considers that at the same time that the CFE and the Tribunal are declaring the technical impossibility of printing new ballots, people are aware that in specific cases election ballots are being printed in private shops with the approval of the respective authorities.

Times have changed. Speaking of majorities or minorities is based on statistics pertaining to a bygone political reality and today do not appear to have much basis in fact. This political change is evident from the very existence of the Tribunal of Electoral Litigation. Legality and the practical application of the law must adhere to this new reality. Consequently, it is important to keep the 6 July elections free from the slightest impediment. In a country where "form is everything," the CFE's and the Tribunal of Electoral Litigation's decision demonstrates a serious lack of political sense that will become obvious after the first Wednesday in July, when charges of fraud and other irregularities begin, which always detract from rather than add to credibility.

Navy Seizes Illegal U.S. Fishing Boats
PA1706153188 Mexico City XHTV Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 17 Jun 88

[Report by Luvin Jimenez]

[Text] The Mexican Navy has dealt a second blow to piracy this month with the capture of the tuna boat "Daniel J." The boat was found fishing illegally 60 miles east of the Soto la Marina River. A Navy vessel intercepted the tuna boat, which was registered in Florida, on the morning of 14 June.

When the boat was inspected, the Navy discovered it was carrying 80 tunas weighing more than 3.5 tons. During the interrogation of Captain Michael Palacio, it was discovered the boat had no permit to operate in Mexican waters. The boat and its crew of five were taken to Tampico. They will remain there until the Secretariat of Fisheries imposes the appropriate fine. According to the Federal Fisheries Law, the fine can vary between 2,001 to 10,000 times the minimum wage in the Federal District.

This is the second illegal fishing boat seized so far this month. On 5 June, the Navy captured the Texan shrimp boat "Mama Gauri," which was carrying almost 2 tons of shrimp. That boat is still being held because a fine has not been imposed yet.

Costa Rica

Arias UN Disarmament Conference Speech

PA1706220888 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 9 Jun 88 p 14

["Excerpt" of speech by President Oscar Arias Sanchez at the special UN General Assembly meeting on disarmament—date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] I come here for the third time. Now I have come to talk about disarmament, that is, of peace, change, and development. Many things have happened in the past 2 years. Some have occurred rapidly. An agreement reducing nuclear weapons was signed. All must help pave the path toward hope. There is a Central American peace plan. Despite huge obstacles (and much work to do) this plan has silenced cannons and opened newspapers. Soviets troops are pulling out of Afghanistan. Cruel struggles persist with brothers killing each other from the mountains of Machu Picchu to the valleys of Ireland, from the jungles to the deserts and seas. [passage omitted]

I come to add the voice and strength of Costa Rica to those who with goodwill seek to limit weapons and increase dialogue, to those who with goodwill strive to share the benefits of development among nations and who remove the attempts to dominate other peoples. I come to join the crusade of men and women who are not afraid of liberty and who strive for a new world, of those people who can help us end the threat of war in Central America. I come to ask for an end to the shipment of weapons to our region, because only weapons can hurt the peace plan and slow the progress of democracy.

Each day the world has more weapons and fewer trees. Each day there is more hunger and less clean air. Each day there are more drugs and less pure water. In my Central America, each day there are more soldiers and fewer students. Are we losing the battle for a new world? [passage omitted]

Major changes in support of liberty are occuring in the world. In the Latin American countries those changes must happen quickly so democracy may be consolidated and the hope for development may be born anew. We need a new liberating army. We need soldiers who leave their rifles and take up the plow. We need soldiers who are committed to the liberty of their people and who do not threaten their rights. We need soldiers who understand why in Latin America's history two democracies have never been at war.

Free men understand each other without resorting to violence. The new liberating army of Latin America must be smaller, subject to civilian rule, and removed from the arms race. Armies cannot continue waiting and promoting the destruction of democratic governments to justify their existence and to take power. They cannot continue being irresponsible witnesses of the poverty of many of their peoples in order to justify those who take up arms. Each soldier marching bravely seeking applause costs the world 20 empty stomachs. Each tank, each warship, and each combat plane are sad testimonies to the thousands and thousands of men and women without work or housing; they are sad testimonies to the slow and painful death of malnourished children.

The armies of our countries must understand that the best tactic to face a threat from a neighbor is mutual understanding, mutual disarmament, and a solid and permanent commitment to peace. That is the tactic that will save lives and natural resources. That is the tactic that will bring glory to the lieutenant and the general as the true heroes of the fatherland.

The new liberating army must be born anew so that Latin America may write its own history of peace and democracy. The new liberating army must rise again so that in those few pages of history still remaining in the 20th century we may walk on the path toward development. [passage omitted]

Today's world is divided into those who are horrified about being destroyed in a nuclear war and those who are being killed day after day in conventional wars. This horror of a final war is so great that it has made us insensitive toward the arms buildup and the use of nonatomic weapons. We must urgently—and our intelligence and piousness demand this—struggle to ensure that there will never again be another Hiroshima, Vietnam, or Afghanistan.

This is the time designated by freedom, which is making headway in the world, to retake principles and renew international moral values. Our common policies should reflect the opinion of the majorities beyond our borders. We can no longer allow a few people to benefit by hurting many others, be it with drugs or weapons.

Only those with untarnished credentials should defend human rights; otherwise we would be helping those who violate them. Medicines or pesticides that we know are harmful at home should not be exported. We know of the virtues of dialogue and tolerance; let us not then promote hatred and sell weapons. It is a sad irony that some consider the suspension of arms shipments as punishment when it should be considered a prize, a friendly gesture. In each cause that we must overcome together, let us work to ensure that international democracy reflects the will of peoples and the strength of principles we share, that it will be based on moral principles that will in turn increase trust.

I wish to thank this assembly and Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar for their pure and unconditional support of Central American peace efforts. I wish to thank you for having confidence in us despite temporary setbacks and for the joy with which you have shared our successes. I am also pleased on this occasion to point out UN efforts to show the world that disarmament and

development should be discussed together. This is a reality that we can no longer overlook. My own country is the best example that development is possible without weapons. I also thank you for encouraging the work of the University for Peace, which operates in Costa Rica.

People's Party Resolution on Elections

PA1906031388 San Jose LIBERTAD in Spanish 9 Jun 88 p 2

["Editorial" on resolution issued by the Costa Rican People's Party (PPC) Central Committee (CC) in San Jose on 4 June]

[Text] The Costa Rican People's Party Central Committee met in San Jose on 4 June 1988 to analyze the national and regional political situation as well as the conversations with other leftist and democratic forces that seek unity in the people's patriotic struggle for an agreement that will allow us to participate as a single bloc in the 1990 elections. The following resolution was approved at that meeting:

1. The document entitled "Initial Political Bases for a Leftist Unity Agreement," prepared by the Unity Commission of the Broad Democratic Front, the People's Vanguard Party, and the PPC, was approved. It was decided to turn this document over to the national leadership of the three parties for their discussion, analysis, and ratification.

The PPC CC feels it is through self-criticism of past mistakes by the leftist groups, and by overcoming these errors through a practical policy based on adequate tactics and a platform of struggling for peace, democracy, sovereignty, and progress with social justice it will be possible to unify the actions of the leftist groups and bring together a greater number of people and democratic forces into a common struggle front. These political bases should allow us to begin a new phase of preparation, discussion, and unified political work to establish the electoral political goal of the left and of the democratic forces, the platform, and the democratic mechanisms for naming candidates.

2. Conversations should continue with the comrades of the Socialist Party and the New Republic Movement, as well as with the progressive sectors and individuals, in order to reach a political agreement that will allow them to join a unified bloc based on equality and common interests, as well as respect for their differences, autonomy, and pluralism.

The CC ratifies the ties and traditions of friendship and solidarity that join us with the United People comrades, and voices its willingness to struggle to reach agreements that will allow us to struggle united for the benefit of our people and our fatherland.

3. A period of information, discussion, and participation within the party should begin by holding assemblies and meetings throughout the country with militants and leaders.

The CC feels that unity is a process of intense struggle and debate, where it is essential to have democratic participation in order to unify the thoughts and actions of the entire party. This will turn us into an effective instrument to promote the unifying process based on respect for and development of the agreed political bases.

The newspaper LIBERTAD should play an extremely important role in explaining, disseminating, and organizing the unified policy of the party and its allies.

4. The party's organizations and militants are urged to wage an information offensive and explain to the followers and people in general the unifying policy that was decided upon. In order to achieve this, the party organizations will support panel discussions as well as meetings in private homes, work centers, schools, and other places where friends and followers can learn of our unifying policy and participate in drafting and putting into effect this policy.

5. The Political Commission was entrusted with preparing a plan of action that will immediately allow the enforcement of previous agreements. It was also authorized to continue making progress in achieving unity on the political bases that have been initially approved.

El Salvador

Zamora Says Election Participation 'Uncertain'

PA1806200688 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 18 Jun 88

[Report by Magdalena Jimenez—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Today FDR leader Ruben Zamora said that the participation of the Democratic Merger (CD) in next year's elections is still uncertain. He also disclosed that there have been talks between the FMLN and some members of the U.S. Democratic Party.

Ruben Zamora, who is also a CD member, conditioned the CD's participation in next year's elections to the existence of basic conditions that will permit his party to present its platform. This, he said, would allow Salvadorans to make a free, knowledgeable decision.

[Zamora, in progress] "...freedom of movement, in other words, the possibility not only for the CD but for all political parties to move freely throughout the country. Respect for the personal safety of CD members and followers would be another basic condition, as would be equal access to the media."

Zamora added that the Salvadoran Army and the U.S. Embassy, not the Christian Democratic government, hold real power in the country:

[Zamora] "The United States and [words indistinct] have had a negative influence on our country. They have tried to impose a plan here in El Salvador that in reality is highly unjust for our people. Reagan gives the money, and we give our lives. To maintain its international geopolitical position, the United States is prolonging a war in our country that has already lasted 8 years. I believe the United States has caused considerable damage to our society. I also feel that the Armed Forces have also caused great damage to our country by following the U.S. plan, which in reality is a plan for war."

Zamora said the current U.S. Administration's policy in the region has been a disaster and a failure. Therefore, he added, with the U.S. presidential elections approaching the U.S. Democratic Party is seeking new alternatives that could help resolve the Central American conflicts. In the case of El Salvador, the Democrats have held talks with ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] and FMLN-FDR leaders, Zamora said, adding:

[Zamora] "First, $3 billion has been spent in El Salvador without any results. Second, they cannot continue with this policy for 8 more years. Third, new alternatives must be sought. I believe the alternative of finding a political solution is gaining support within the U.S. Democratic Party. I feel that the main idea we should stress to the United States is that they cannot give us peace. Just as democracy cannot be exported, neither can peace. We must build our own peace. What we must ask them is not to prevent peace. In other words, we must ask them to let our nation's forces try to resolve our problems among ourselves."

Zamora said the various proposals made by ARENA, the Catholic Church, and the government are exclusionary because ARENA excludes the people, the church excludes the political parties, and the government excludes the minority parties.

In conclusion, Zamora reiterated that for a political solution to work, it should include the FMLN and the Army.

Catholic Church Calls for National Debate

PA1806204388 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 18 Jun 88

[Report by Marco Antonio Guevara]

[Text] Today the Catholic Church officially called for a national debate in which it expects more than 100 Salvadoran organizations to participate.

The Salvadoran archbishopric has invited more than 100 social groups in our country to a national debate to end the armed conflict. Although the participants' names have not been disclosed, the church's hierarchy said they include representatives from a wide spectrum of the country's organized forces. It was also said that mechanisms have been established so other social forces can join the debate. In addition, a survey is being planned among those not members of political or social groups so their views can also be heard.

[Begin Archbishop Rivera y Damas recording] A divided nation cannot last; in the same manner, a divided family cannot exist. This is written in the Gospel according to St Mark, Chapter 3:24-25. These grave words that our Lord once said come to my mind as a pastor when I see our dear El Salvador divided and ruptured. That is why we must restore the social fabric by seeking fundamental points for a national consensus. We want to make a small contribution to the cause of peace by promoting a broad, free national debate among social forces that may enable us to find those fundamental points of consensus. This could help the government, Armed Forces, and political parties on the one hand, and the FMLN-FDR on the other, to end the conflict through dialogue and negotiation. [end recording]

To participate, each consulted sector must reply in writing within 1 month to a questionnaire prepared by the organizers. The questionnaire contains five points or specific subjects and additional space in which other matters can be included as a sixth point.

The information gathered will be used in a study to highlight the points of agreement. The results will be presented to the participants, who, after analyzing them, may provide their comments publicly in an assembly scheduled for 27-28 August.

[Begin Rivera y Damas recording] We realized that the dialogue, which has not failed but has not produced specific results, had two defects: There was little participation in it, and the feelings of the majority of the country's active forces were not taken into consideration during the discussions. We intend to correct those two flaws through this national debate. There may be other needs; however, right now we know of these two aspects that must be considered for a possible fourth round of talks. [end recording]

Today the Salvadoran church has undertaken a delicate, yet momentous mission with the belief that the key element at this time is consensus. Whether the initiative is successful in solving the conflict or fails for any reason, it is a historic call, simply because it comes from the Catholic Church.

Leftist Parties Form New Political Movement

PA1706154088 Paris AFP in Spanish 2311 GMT 16 Jun 88

[Excerpt] This week the Salvadoran left announced its decision to reactivate its mass political fronts, virtually restricted to clandestine activities for 7 years, with the creation of the Bread, Land, Work, and Liberty Movement (MPTL) [Movimiento Pan, Tierra, Trabajo, y Libertad].

According to a statement by its leaders, the MPTL will be the political organization of peasants, workers, people displaced by the war, students, teachers, and professionals. It will "unleash the people's strength" and struggle for changing the current Salvadoran regime.

The movement's creation was announced on Wednesday evening by Jorge Villegas, Santiago Flores, and Alejandro Esteves, among other leaders, during a rally in which 1,500 people, mostly peasants, gathered in front of the Francisco Morazan Monument in downtown San Salvador. Villegas, Flores, and Esteves made fiery speeches urging the Salvadoran people to "join the (political) struggle to defeat the U.S.-supported counterinsurgency military dictatorship and install a new popular, democratic government."

According to its leaders' statements, the MPTL hopes to resume the struggle carried out until 1981 by the People's Revolutionary Bloc (BPR), the United Popular Action Front (FAPU), and the 28 February People's Leagues (LP-28). [passage omitted]

FMLN Says Helicopter Downed, 2 Others Damaged

PA2006022988 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 20 Jun 88

[Text] We will give the details of the fighting that took place in Morazan Department on 19 June:

At 0830 on 19 June, the FMLN attacked an enemy unit, inflicting eight casualties, including a radio operator. The rest of the commando unit was scattered. Three helicopters arrived on the scene to support the unit. Our forces laid an antiaircraft ambush, downing one of the helicopters and seriously damaging another helicopter. The downed helicopter was totally destroyed on the slopes of La Crucita and El Mozote Hills.

Immediately afterward, the enemy sent two A-37 aircraft, a C-47 aircraft, a push-and-pull [preceding phrase in English] aircraft, and three helicopters to support the troops in the combat zones. At least two rocket-launching helicopters, one push-and-pull aircraft, and a C-47 aircraft have been permanently overflying the shooting in the combat zones. At about 1200 today, several helicopters arrived to support the commando troops. At this time, a small aircraft [as heard] overflying the combat zones was seriously damaged and was forced to abandon the zone immediately. This makes a total of two helicopters damaged. The total, we repeat, was one helicopter downed in El Mozote and two helicopters damaged in the fighting that has taken place in Morazan Department on this victorious Sunday.

At 1400 today, the enemy disembarked new units from seven helicopters to support the attacked troops near the areas where fighting has taken place. In total, the enemy has organized 14 helicopter flights. Our forces maintain control of the areas in which fighting is taking place.

We continue to develop the plan to respond to the enemy patrols seeking to annihilate us. Colonel Ponce and the high command insist on sending small units that are sacrificed. On repeated occasions, they have been hit hard, as occurred in Volcancillo, Coco, and Aiquique several weeks ago, and as we did today in El Mozote.

The deployment of our control and security militias and our rebel detachments at the various levels of force in Morazan have permitted us to detect and carry out the partial annihilation of enemy troops. They will be totally annihilated in future battles.

Charges Honduran Incursions

PA1706185488 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 17 Jun 88

[Excerpts] We call on the Salvadoran and international press, especially the Honduran press, to listen to the latest reports receied by Radio Venceremos on Honduran Army incursions into Salvadoran territory.

Honduran soldiers entered our territory in the following places on 15 June: Sabanetas cemetery, (Monte Chatado Hill), and (Babilonia Hill), all in northern Morazan Department. We note that the Honduran Army entered those same areas on 11 June and that two Salvadoran helicopters carried troops to Honduran territory on 15 June.

Once again we point out that the United States is forcing the Honduran Army to get involved in a war that has been lost by the Salvadoran Army. We reiterate: We do not want any confrontations with Honduras, because we believe that we are fraternal countries and that the common enemy of the Central American people is the United States. [passage omitted]

Honduras has no need to get involved in someone else's war. We call on all Honduran patriotic sectors, political parties, and other people's organizations to beware of this situation, which has been created by the Reagan administration.

Rebels Raid Town, Destroy Municipal Offices

PA1806005588 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0030 GMT 17 Jun 88

[Report by Alfredo Villareal]

[Excerpt] This morning rebel columns raided the town of Mercedes de la Ceiba, La Paz Department, and destroyed the local municipal offices after sending a message through ANTEL [National Administration for Telecommunications].

The FMLN seems to have a new strategy of sabotaging government offices that rent space throughout the country. Fire bombs were used to destroy the municipal offices in the town of Mercedes de la Ceiba, La Paz Department, 70 km northeast of the capital.

Reports indicate that a group of rebels raided the town after midnight, used the ANTEL equipment to send a communique, and destroyed the municipal office's furniture and files. The ANTEL equipment was left intact, and no casualites from the attack were reported. [passage omitted]

Guatemala

URNG Proposes 90-Day Cease-Fire to Government

PA1706212188 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1527 GMT 17 Jun 88

[Text] Guatemala City, 17 Jun (ACAN-EFE)—Today the National Reconciliation Commission [CRN] announced that the Guatemalan guerrillas had proposed a 90-day "cease-fire" to the Cerezo government. The truce would take effect on 1 July and would be under foreign supervision.

In its proposal, which was channeled through the CRN, the URNG "command" said it had proposed the cease-fire as "a step to achieve the start of a permanent process of peace and democratization." It acknowledged that "the process of democratization and peace (in Guatemala) is difficult and complex," but it stressed that "all measures must be exhausted."

In its document, the URNG urged the Cerezo government to "acknowledge that an internal armed conflict exists and that its historical causes persist" in order to find the path toward a political solution.

The rebels proposed to President Cerezo the establishment of a dialogue to end the 27-year-old war. Following the preliminary talks in Madrid in October 1987, however, the Guatemalan Government and Army have steadfastly adhered to their position of not holding talks because that "would recognize the insurgents."

The URNG expressed its real "desire and willingness to end the armed confrontation and bloodshed," for which it requested its recognition as "a representative and valid participant in the efforts to find a national political solution." The guerrillas stressed that "the two sides should prove their good faith" by agreeing on a 90-day cease-fire throughout the country beginning on 1 July.

The guerrillas proposed that the cease-fire be verified by the CRN, as well as by Spain, the FRG, and Canada—which have been proposed by the Central American foreign ministers as members of the verification commission for arms limitation in the region—and by Brazil.

The URNG, made up of the three guerrilla organizations confronting the Army in seven war fronts in the country's interior, requested the beginning of direct talks between high-level representatives from both sides "within the framework of the truce." It also proposed the "discussion" and setting of dates for dismantling the current mechanisms of control over the population and for guaranteeing full observance of human rights. The guerrillas noted that the basis for establishing agreements that may guarantee the building of a "democratic process and the incorporation of the revolutionary movement in that process" must be "discussed at the highest level."

The URNG proposed that the talks "take place in suitable places and with qualified witnesses." It also proposed implementing an "institutionalized national dialogue" and integrating the population in the areas of conflict into the productive system.

Neither the government nor the Armed Forces have yet commented on the new URNG proposal.

Authorities have previously reiterated the government's position of not holding talks with "armed groups." They have insisted that the rebels "must lay down their weapons" and through the CRN voice their desire to "join the democratization process and the legal political process." According to the Army, the guerrillas, who have approximately 3,200 men, "are under control" and do not threaten the democratic system.

Government: Proposal 'Good'

PA1806185288 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1827 GMT 18 Jun 88

[Excerpt] Guatemala City, 18 Jun (ACAN-EFE)—The Guatemalan Government feels that the guerrillas' proposal for a 90-day cease-fire effective 1 July is "good and opportune," an official source said today.

Presidential Public Relations Secretary Claudia Arenas said "the government sees as positive" the URNG's decision "to participate in a dialogue through the National Reconciliation Commission (CRN)."

She emphasized, however, that the rebels "must abandon their weapons and join the country's political life," a decision that must be evaluated by the CRN, which is mediating between the government and the URNG leadership in the hope the two sides will resume talks. [passage omitted]

Cerezo: Economy 'Suffered' After Coup Attempt

PA1806044488 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1642 GMT 17 Jun 88

[Text] Guatemala City, 17 Jun (ACAN-EFE)—Today Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo admitted that after the 11 May coup d'etat attempt the foreign exchange market has deteriorated and the price of the dollar has gone up.

Cerezo held an unexpected news conference in a hall of the National Palace. At the news conference Cerezo stated: "Our economy has suffered as a result of the political destabilization caused by last month's attempted coup d'etat."

The president said that in addition to the pressures exerted on the foreign exchange market, especially on the dollar, the negative impact had manifested itself in "the hoarding of and speculation in basic products."

Cerezo, nevertheless, stated that his government remains "strong" and able "to confront the adverse situation."

The exchange rate is currently more than 2.60 quetzales to the dollar. Cerezo said the government will try to "stop" any dollar price increase by implementing a uniform exchange rate plan.

The uniform exchange rate plan was to be implemented a year ago when the second phase of the "fiscal reorganization" was initiated. The first phase of the plan was initiated in June 1986 and stopped the dollar price hike at that time .

Cerezo stated that the results achieved as a result of these measures are "an accomplishment of my government," because for the past two years the dollar exchange rate has not exceeded 2.55 quetzales.

The Guatemalan Central Bank has explained that the uniform exchange rate plan will be implemented in "controlled" and "official" markets and will set a parity rate of 2.50 quetzales per dollar in both markets.

Presently, the "official" exchange rate is 1 quetzal per U.S. dollar, but this applies only to foreign debt payments. The Central Bank reports that this practice "requires monetization." [sentence as received]

The "controlled" market rate (2.50 quetzales per dollar) has been used exclusively for exports. The "banking" sector's exchange rate right now is also 2.50 quetzales per dollar. This rate is applied "to any operation in which either the controlled or the official market rates apply."

Cerezo did not specify when the "uniform exchange rate" would go into effect. The uniform exchange rate bill, however, is presently in the legislative assembly, but it has not been discussed since commission reports are still pending.

The Guatemalan president did not provide further details on the hoarding and speculation he mentioned; however, his statements were made at a moment when the Ministry of Economy was forced to take price controls off sugar, cooking oil, pastas, and other basic family products.

The prices of all these products were fixed, and over the last 2 weeks they had disappeared from market shelves. Sugar is again available, but its price has increased from 48 to 80 centavos per kilogram (19 to 32 cents).

It is generally believed that the government's official acceptance of its economic problems will produce a reaction among the masses. Three months ago the government promised "to reduce the cost of living" to avoid a general strike being planned at the time.

The government reached this agreement with the Labor and Popular Action Union, a movement that comprises organizations and has more than 1 million members.

Honduras

Foreign Ministry Rejects Kampelman Statements

PA1806131388 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0154 GMT 18 Jun 88

[Excerpt] Tegucigalpa, 17 Jun (ACAN-EFE)—Today Honduras rejected statements by U.S. envoy Max Kampelman, who on Thursday said here that he and Honduran President Jose Azcona Hoyo had reaffirmed the need for continued aid to the Nicaraguan "contras."

The Honduran Foreign Ministry said it was untrue that Azcona had promised or offered any type of aid to the "contras" in their war against the Nicaraguan Government. The Honduran clarification adds that this country has never accepted or recognized having "contra" bases on its territory, even though Nicaragua has claimed this since the start of the Sapoa peace talks in March.

Azcona reiterated to Kampelman Honduras' commitment to the Esquipulas II accords and the hope that the other Central American countries will faithfully comply with this treaty as the way to achieve peace in the region, the note adds.

The Foreign Ministry stressed that the president ratified his government's position that "the Soviet bloc should end its massive military aid to the Nicaraguan Government and to the armed groups trying to overthrow democratic governments in Central America." The clarifying note says: "Honduras reiterates that it does not have any commitment" to the "contras" and that "Nicaragua's civil war is a conflict among Nicaraguans that must be resolved" within Nicaraguan territory.

The Honduran clarification adds: "The conflict in the neighboring country must be resolved through national reconciliation and a democratization process undertaken voluntarily by the Nicaraguan Government" under the Esquipulas II peace plan. Honduras also reiterated its "desire to stay out of the domestic conflicts of neighboring countries and to contribute to seeking negotiated solutions to end civil wars that can affect our country."

Kampelman's statements were described as contradictory by the Nicaraguan Embassy in this country, because the previous day the Honduran president had told a Nicaraguan delegation that he was willing to contribute to a peaceful solution in Nicaragua. [passage omitted]

Nicaraguans Brief Azcona on Talks With Contras

PA1706131688 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1120 GMT 16 Jun 88

[Report on interview with Rafael Solis, first secretary of the Nicaraguan Legislative Assembly, by Julio Armando Valdes in Tegucigalpa "yesterday"]

[Text] Yesterday Nicaraguan Government representatives met with President Jose Azcona Hoyo to explain why counterrevolutionary leaders suspended peace negotiations with the Sandinist regime.

The Nicaraguan Government's mission was made up of Rafael Solis, first secretary of the Legislative Assembly, and Danilo Abud Vivas, Foreign Ministry adviser on Central American affairs, who formerly served as Nicaraguan ambassador to Honduras. Rafael Solis explains what was discussed with President Azcona Hoyo:

[Begin recording] [Solis] I came on behalf of the Nicaraguan president to explain to President Azcona our position on the Managua talks, which have been suspended. We handed him a number of documents containing our proposals to reach a permanent cease-fire. We also discussed our reasoning on why the counterrevolution decided to suspend the talks.

The counterrevolutionary leaders withdrew from the talks and even refused to sign agreements on basic points that could have been reached, such as the cease-fire—that is, another extension of the cease-fire—and issues pertaining to the distribution of humanitarian aid. We reached some small agreements, however, such as the case of the 76 [figure as heard] kidnapped people they will release in the next few days and a de facto cease-fire extension on their part. The government agreed in writing to abstain from carrying out any kind of offensive military actions until 30 June.

[Valdes] What was President Azcona's reaction to your views?

[Solis] It was positive. He said he will study the document we handed him and that he definitely advocates an end to the war and a permanent cease-fire in Nicaragua. He said he will do everything he can to achieve this. He also gave us a very positive reply about ways of resolving this Nicaraguan problem .

[Valdes] Did you request the expulsion of contras that are on Honduran territory?

[Solis] We have requested this on innumerable occasions. This meeting was to present our position on the break in the talks. Of course, this request is still valid. On this occasion, however, we came to brief him on our position and reasoning on the development of the talks and their suspension. Obviously, our demand and position that the contras must leave Honduran territory, as mandated in the Esquipulas II agreement, still stands.

[Valdes] According to international reports, a civil war in the short run is not ruled out.

[Solis] There have been several clashes in the past days following the Thursday meeting, but we cannot yet say that the cease-fire has been broken. There have been incidents during the 2 months when the cease-fire was in force; there were many incidents. We reported at the most recent Verification Commission meeting that there were many incidents. There were even between 300 or 400 casualties throughout the country involving units that did not respect the cease-fire.

We cannot say, however, that there is an actual break in the cease-fire at this point. The cease-fire is still being maintained. Yesterday the contras were in Washington to ask for military aid, and this suggests to us that they probably decided to resume the war. This can be surmised from our analyses of their statements, visits to Washington, and Calero's position. He is again actively asking Washington for aid. It seems they want to resume the war. Nevertheless, that is not the position or inclination of our government; it is quite the opposite. [end recording]

In conclusion, Dr Rafael Solis said the Esquipulas agreement will be jeopardized if the rupture between the contras and the Sandinist government continues.

Wife of Missing Man Accuses CIA of Torture

PA1806013988 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1130 GMT 17 Jun 88

[Report on undated letter from Natalia Cabrera to Armed Forces Commander Humberto Regalado Hernandez]

[Text] The letter reads:

Dear Sir:

I address you on the 57th day since the kidnapping and disappearance of my husband, Roger Samuel Gonzalez Zelaya. The kidnapping took place at 1230 on 19 April in the vicinity of this capital's Central Park in front of the Midence Soto Building. According to witnesses, the kidnapping was carried out by three DIN [Department of National Investigations] agents, including Mr Arnaldo Canales, now residing in Comayagua.

They put my husband into a red Toyota with tinted glass and no license plates. He was taken to police dungeons, according to information given to me by an agent of that department. The agent warned me that my husband should be rescued before Thursday, 21 April, or I would never see him again. Once in his cell he was brutally tortured by Lieutenant Arias, and his personal belongings were distributed among agents on duty that night.

I have been informed by reliable sources of everything that has been done to my husband, and I know those who are involved in these abuses. To mention only a few, I will name

the 316th Battalion, specifically the squadron that participated in the murder of Miguel Angel Pabon and Moises Landaverde, who had come from San Pedro Sula 1 week before Roger Gonzalez disappeared. They came to kidnap him. As expected, a CIA employee was involved. During an interrogation, he made Roger Gonzalez confess under torture that he was responsible for the burning of a U.S. flag during the 7 April disturbances.

The Medical-Legal Department of the First Criminal Court of the Justice of the Peace was also involved. Roger Gonzalez was admitted there on an emergency basis as a result of the heavy-handed torture that was inflicted on him by the eternal enemies of life. Before he fully recovered, he was transferred by two DIN agents—with the consent of a secretary of the DIN legal office—to be further tortured in one of the many clandestine jails in this country.

Another section of this note to General Humberto Regalado Hernandez states:

I inform you that I have sent letters to presidents of countries in the Central American area who are members of the Esquipulas II agreement. You must be aware of this because of the various dispatches and notes sent by the heads of state demanding explanations regarding Roger Gonzalez' disappearance. International organizations that defend human rights and diplomatic institutions have also requested clarifications from your government in this regard.

Gentlemen [as heard], in appealing to your sense of reason, I ask you: Do you not have mothers? If you have or had mothers, do you not feel remorse? Are you human beings? If so, when you look at your children and wife, do you not think of this child in my womb whom you have deprived of his father's presence? Even before birth he is already a victim of repression. Can you eat comfortably knowing that there is a wife asking and demanding that you turn over the father of her child so that he can support and appropriately nourish this child that I am carrying? Can you sleep calmly knowing that there is a mother who cannot sleep because you kidnapped her son?

Regardless of whether you like it or not, I will continue to fight to my last breath. I hope you will not do to me what you did to my husband. Even if I face the same fate, I know you will never forget me.

The letter is signed by Natalia Carolina Cabrera Solis, wife of Roger Gonzalez.

Nicaragua

Ortega Says Wage Demands 'Impossible' To Meet

PA1906033688 Managua International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Jun 88

[Text] Today in Managua Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega Saavedra, commander of the revolution, said that the salary demands made by teachers and health workers are fair, but Nicaragua's crisis makes it impossible to meet those demands.

Today the Nicaraguan president addressed more than 1,500 [words indistinct] workers in his weekly "Face the People" radio and television program.

Commander Ortega Saavedra explained that the revolutionary government has the political willingness to improve the standard of living of the citizens in this Central American country, but that U.S. imperialism imposes a war upon us that we need to defend ourselves from.

Contra Leader: Talks To Resume 'This Month'

PA1806124988 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1205 GMT 18 Jun 88

[Text] Managua—Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, member of the contra leadership, told the newspaper LA PRENSA that before this month is over the talks between the government and the contras will be resumed. To this date, however, there has been no official announcement on this.

The Nicaraguan Government has not received any proposal from the contras for the resumption of the negotiations.

Military Convoy Sent Toward Mountains

PA1706160188 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 15 Jun 88 p 1

[Text] This morning a military convoy composed of 39 IFA and SIL trucks and ambulances advanced along the northern highway toward the mountains, thus responding to President Ortega's speech last night, when he announced: "Let us prepare for war."

Trucks loaded with youths from the Patriotic Military Service, dressed in olive and camouflage uniforms; other trucks loaded with ammunition boxes, desks, chairs, forms; and medical service units left at approximately 1130.

Traffic was stopped for several minutes by Interior Ministry patrols that gave the convoy the right-of-way several miles ahead. People waiting at the bus stops, riding buses, or driving their own vehicles were surprised by the military convoy, which represents the preparation for new confrontations, given that the cease-fire negotiations between the Nicaraguan Resistance and the government have failed.

Reportage on Contra Attacks, Kidnappings

2 EPS Soldiers Killed

PA1706162488 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 17 Jun 88

[Text] This afternoon the Nicaraguan Defense Ministry reported that two EPS soldiers were killed in a cowardly ambush carried out by the counterrevolution. In addition, three other soldiers were injured and a truck completely destroyed. The ambush took placed at [name indistinct], northeast of Abisinia, Jinotega Department.

The Defense Ministry also reported that six civilians were kidnapped in several areas in the 5th and 6th Regions. Three civilians were kidnapped in Buena Vista, east of Rio Blanco, Matagalpa Department; two more at El Polaco, southeast of El Cua, Jinotega Department; and another one was kidnapped southeast of [names indistinct], Chontales Department.

The two EPS soldiers who were killed are Antonio Munoz, originally from Managua, and Mauricio Vanegas Cruz from Masaya. It was reported that three counterrevolutionaries were killed when they ambushed two military trucks.

Today, military sources reported that yesterday two contra groups loyal to Somozist guard Enrique Bermudez ambushed a military truck at El Gancho de la Docha, 70 km north of Jinotega. In this ambush the aforementioned youths died heroically.

The same military sources stated that minutes after that ambush, a mercenary Somozist group ambushed another military truck, but the Sandino cubs repelled the group, killing three contras and injuring several others.

The EPS military chiefs said they will maintain the ceasefire despite the Somozist mercenaries' provocations.

Meanwhile, it was learned that the bodies of the heroic combatants, who did their Patriotic Military Service, were taken to their relatives through the Jinotega Commission of Support for the Combatant.

10, 12 June Attacks

PA1706173088 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 16 Jun 88 p 4

[Communique issued by the Public and Foreign Relations Directorate of the Defense Ministry in Mangua on 14 June]

[Text] A group of mercenaries who were trying to enter Costa Rican territory attacked our troops in the Isla Remolino Grande area, southeast of El Castillo, Rio de San Juan Department, on 12 June. Thirteen mercenaries were killed and an AK rifle was recovered.

The following terrorist actions were perpetrated against the civilian population and economic targets by the mercenary forces loyal to former Somozist Colonel Enrique Bermudez:

1. A group of mercenaries kidnapped a civilian in the Los Encuentros area, south of Quilali, Nueva Segovia Department, on 10 June.

2. A group of counterrevolutionaries stole 60 head of cattle in the Verdun area, south of Nueva Guinea in the South Atlantic Autonomous Region, on 12 June.

3. On that same day, the mercenaries intercepted a civilian vehicle on the Juigalpa road, Chontales Department. They stole the passengers' boots.

Issued in Managua on 14 June 1988

Defense Ministry Public and Foreign Relations Directorate

4 Contras Killed

PA1906223188 Paris AFP in Spanish 2156 GMT 18 Jun 88

[Text] Managua, 18 Jun (AFP)—Today the Nicaraguan Defense Ministry said that rebels attacked EPS troops and kidnapped five civilians during the past week despite the unilateral truce that is still in effect.

According to the official report, on Wednesday a group of "contras" harassed La Providencia, a town in the Southern Atlantic Autonomous Region, where two anti-Sandinists were killed.

The following day, another rebel detachment attacked an EPS unit in Rio San Juan Department, which borders Costa Rica. Two contras were killed in the incident.

The kidnappings occurred in rural towns in the country's northern and southeastern regions, the Defense Ministry report stated. The report added that two members of the Nicaraguan Resistance (RN) laid down their weapons.

The government unilaterally declared a cessation of its offensive military operations during the month of June. Although they did not sign a truce agreement, the RN leaders said their forces would not carry out any offensive actions during that period.

Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Meets Ortega

LD1706215988 Prague CTK in English 1912 GMT 17 Jun 88

[Text] Managua June 17 (CTK correspondent)—Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega received here today Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Bohuslav Chnoupek, currently on an official visit to Nicaragua.

In a cordial and friendly discussion, the Czechoslovak minister conveyed to the supreme Nicaraguan representative greetings from General Secretary of the Czechoslovak Communist Party Milos Jakes and President Gustav Husak.

Daniel Ortega spoke about some aspects of the internal political situation in Nicaragua, especially the present state of the discussions with the counter-revolutionary forces. He criticized the unwillingness of the contras to reach any positive agreement aimed at solving the Nicaraguan conflict and stressed that if the counter-revolutionaries do not accept a peaceful solution, the Nicaraguan Government will be forced to intervene militarily.

He also briefed the Czechoslovak guest about the reasons for the latest economic measures of the government aimed at defending the interests of the working people and the revolutionary power. He confirmed the progressive and democratic character of the Nicaraguan revolution based on political pluralism, mixed economy and the policy of non-alignment.

The supreme Nicaraguan representative dealt with the necessity of cooperation of Latin American countries to be able to face the U.S. efforts to impede the Nicaraguan revolution.

He thanked for the all-round support of the socialist countries for the struggle of the Nicaraguan people and expressed the hope that Nicaragua can count with this help in the future.

Visit Communique Issued

LD1906190688 Prague CTK in English 1639 GMT 19 Jun 88

[Text] Managua June 19 (CTK)—Czechoslovakia and Nicaragua stressed that the tense situation in Central America can be solved only by peaceful means, by excluding the policy of pressure and interference from abroad, on the basis of the right of nations to choose freely the path of their development.

In a communique on the visit to Nicaragua by Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Bohuslav Chnoupek (June 15-18), issued today, the two sides highly appreciated the peace efforts of the Contadora and its Support Group and the signing of the "Esquipulas II" agreements.

Czechoslovakia praised the heroism of the Nicaraguan people who courageously defend the achievements of the Sandinista revolution, and at the same time condemned the U.S. Government's interference in Nicaragua's internal affairs.

Minister Chnoupek spoke highly of Nicaragua's active peace policy, while the Nicaraguan side described Czechoslovakia's proposal to establish a zone of confidence and cooperation on the borderline between Warsaw Treaty and NATO states as a constructive contribution towards strengthening peace and security.

Minister Chnoupek and his Nicaraguan colleague Miguel D'Escoto emphasized the part played by the non-aligned movement in the struggle for a nuclear-free world, and underlined its share in strengthening peace and disarmament.

The two sides voiced their readiness to continue deepening their fraternal relations and cooperation in all spheres. The Czechoslovak minister reiterated his country's preparedness to continue supporting Nicaragua in the development of its economy and in overcoming the consequences of the economic and military aggression by the United States, the communique said.

Miguel D'Escoto accepted an invitation to visit Czechoslovakia.

Chnoupek Departs

LD1906150988 Prague CTK in English 1435 GMT 19 Jun 88

[Text] Managua [no date as received]—Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Bohuslav Chnoupek ended Saturday his official four-day visit to Nicaragua and left for home.

In an interview with CTK, his Nicaraguan colleague Miguel D'Escoto said Bohuslav Chnoupek's visit was very beneficial for further development of Czechoslovak-Nicaraguan relations. He also said the governments of the two countries have identical views on the causes of the main sources of tension in the world, and the main line of their foreign policies is the struggle for peace.

Before leaving, Minister Chnoupek met with General Secretary of the Sandinista Association of Culture Officials Rosario Murillo who briefed him on some aspects of the government's cultural policy.

Chamber of Commerce Head on Economic Measures

PA1706233988 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 0400 GMT 16 Jun 88

[Interview with Leon Ruiz, president of the Nicaraguan Chamber of Commerce, by unidentified reporter; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Ruiz] The monetary reforms that the government introduced several months ago with the Monetary Conversion Law created an economic earthquake. Now, in the same way, the new economic measures have created an intense economic quake, because commerce, as the population is well aware of, is suffering one of its most severe crises: replenishing inventories. This requires greater resources to pay customs tariffs. It will seriously harm importers. Logically, retailers will also be affected as they will also acquire fewer products due to the price increases in the nation's industry. Wholesalers will also find they will have to pay higher prices for their imports. In other words, this will have a chain reaction, because less will be bought and there will be less possibility of replenishing inventories.

Also, yesterday we found out that about 100 people were traveling around in trucks, making huge purchases at stores. Some merchants—we do not know exactly who—were caught by surprise and had very strong sales and now they are lamenting their situation because they now have money that is losing more of its value every day.

The effects continue to be disastrous for commerce. We do not know how this situation can be overcome, as there is an extremely high tax burden. The Nicaraguan president himself mentioned at yesterday's event that this situation cannot be endured because the tax burden is so great. It is one of the highest in Latin America, if not the world.

The credit situation is becoming more restricted every day. For commerce in general it was already restricted, and now it is becoming more restricted for producers and industrialists. We are at a dead end, in a vicious circle whose outcome is unknown. The only thing happening is that inflation is increasing.

These measures, some of which have already been mentioned, will not really have any positive effect because they should be accompanied by a series of economic and, especially, political measures. In other words, the judicial framework is staying the same, always causing insecurity and permanent distrust among the business sector. The measures are not enough to try to overcome Nicaragua's current problem. Even more important, political measures should be taken, as these can stabilize the country's economy. That is our first impression of the new measures. As to their scope, we already have had experience with the first monetary conversion. Now, this modification of the exchange rate will be an enormous blow and may have even more serious effects, because the commerce and business situation is a lot more fragile than when the Monetary Conversion Law was introduced.

[Reporter] What will happen with [words indistinct] exchange rates?

[Ruiz] As you are probably aware, the exchange house had announced and had in fact stopped the sale of dollars for commerce and industry. It had only been meeting some of the population's needs. Therefore, the importers' access to the exchange house or to some foreign exchange no longer exists. The only possible source for imports are private funds, but there are not very many people or businessmen who have the funds available for these operations, and I do not think they would want to take such a risk in this situation of economic instability. To do this would be to foresee a loss. In other words, every day the commerce situation becomes more and more precarious because it has less ability to import.

Yesterday we held a meeting with the vice domestic trade minister and we told him of the need to take measures to free the market of foreign exchange so merchants could maintain their activities, because this is necessary to maintain at least a regular, if not a sufficient, supply to meet the consumers' needs. However, no measures have yet been taken to totally free the market. We have no knowledge of the scope of the price deregulation because all we know is what the Nicaraguan president said. We are waiting for clear explanations about the price deregulation and wage measures. Right now there is much expectation and even greater uncertainty in this regard. I see more dark clouds every day. I foresee even greater difficulties and I think many will not be able to overcome this situation.

INE Director Announces Energy Rate Hike

PA1706212288 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1930 GMT 16 Jun 88

[Interview with Emilio Rappaccioli, minister-director of the Nicaraguan Energy Institute (INE), by unidentified reporter; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Rappaccioli] This increase has been considered and is practically decided. Just as we had to increase fuel prices, as we announced yesterday, we were forced to increase the energy rate. This increase, which will be effective Monday, is related to the exchange rate, which rose from 12 cordobas per dollar to 80 cordobas per dollar. This is the main cause for the rate increase. Other factors affecting this rate include the consumer price index and a salary increase that has already been decided. But the fundamental factor that has forced INE and the government to adjust fuel prices and the energy rate is the increase in the official exchange rate.

[Reporter] What is the percentage of this energy rate increase, 20 or 40?

[Rappaccioli] We have not yet made the final calculations. Several adjustment percentages are being analyzed, some larger than others. Nevertheless, roughly speaking, we plan to raise the rate 7-8 times the current figure.

[Reporter] What is your reply to the population, particularly workers who have seen their family income affected?

[Rappaccioli] We agree with what the president and labor union leaders have said; namely, that we have to produce here, and we have to increase salaries through productivity and efficiency. The workers and enterprises that are more efficient and produce more will be entitled to higher salaries and a better position than those workers and enterprises who do not produce or improve their organization and increase their productivity.

Central Bank Outlines Interest Rate Policies

PA1706130488 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 15 Jun 88 p 4

[Text] Carlos Matus Tapia, acting secretary for the board of directors of the Central Bank of Nicaragua [BCN], reports that the board approved the following at its 27th session on 14 June 1988:

1. Approve the following annual basic interest rate policies for short-term bank loans:

a. For production, 12 percent.

b. Business (including calf-fattening and personal loans), 45 percent.

c. Domestic and foreign government business for national products, 20 percent.

The basic annual interest rate for activities described under points a and b above shall be increased in relation to the monthly consumer price index, excluding rum, beer, cigarettes, and sodas, and will be established by the Nicaraguan Institute of Statistics and Census (INEC), published monthly by the Central Bank of Nicaragua.

The above interest rates shall be applied from this date to the balances outstanding, new outlays, and/or loans. For the preceding period, the old interest rates shall be applied.

2. For customer deposits, the following interest rate policies will be applied:

a. For 3-month to 1-year fixed deposit certificates, the basic interest rate of 18 percent shall be applied, adjustable in relation to the periodic movement of the consumer price index.

b. For deposits for more than 1 year, the same interest rates established under Article 28 of the 1988 monetary rules shall be applied.

c. Savings account interest rates shall be the same as stipulated under Article 27 of the 1988 monetary rules.

Managua, 14 June 1988

Carlos Matus Tapia, Acting Secretary, BCN Board of Directors

Opposition Leaders on Ways To Solve Crisis

PA1906170988 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2010 GMT 18 Jun 88

[By Fidelfo Martinez]

[Text] Managua, 17 Jun (ACAN-EFE)—The three civic opposition leaders with different ideologies who participated in a roundtable to discuss the nation's problems have disagreed on the correct formula with which to solve Nicaragua's serious crisis.

Adan Fletes, national adviser of the Nicaraguan Social Christian Party (PSC), said that to resolve the nation's problems the FSLN must be expelled from power and a new government must emerge from an opposition party.

Another PSC leader quickly explained that Fletes did not mean that the Sandinists must be expelled from power by violent means but as a result of a civic struggle.

Virgilio Godoy, president of the Independent Liberal Party (PLI), said that although it might be difficult, Nicaraguans must remain committed to the national unity of all civic opposition groups "in order to give clear answers."

He is convinced that the system characterized by a mixed economy, political pluralism, and nonalignment—"two aspects of which have been distorted by the Sandinists"—remains a viable means of achieving national reconciliation in Nicaragua.

Godoy, who was labor minister in the Sandinist regime until mid-1984, said that all the errors committed by the FSLN in this country have created internal conditions conducive for the development of "a solid domestic resistance."

The liberal politician said that the struggle begun by the 14 opposition parties 7 months ago is facing an even greater challenge, because the Nicaraguan conflict has been internationalized.

He noted that the Nicaraguan Resistance is backed by the U.S. Government, while the Sandinists are backed by the USSR, a situation that makes it "tremendously difficult" for the internal forces to find "areas of consensus to help face up to the challenges."

Godoy remains convinced that the solution to the Nicaraguan crisis must be a negotiated one. At the same time, he called on opposition leaders to consolidate opposition unity and "not simply pour more salt on the wounds."

According to Godoy, the Sandinist government has recently had to "shoot and destroy" statements that were previously held as dogma as a result of initial errors.

The PLI leader said that the Nicaraguan Government has now reached such a point that its main policies are: "internal repression to retain power by any means, and international charity, because it is easy to live on subsidies."

Luis Sanchez, a prominent leader of the Nicaraguan Socialist Party, another participant in the weekend roundtable, said that the national crisis can be solved if "a great national political and economic pact" is achieved.

He stated emphatically that reconciliation in Nicaragua must "inevitably" be achieved under conditions of democracy, unrestricted public freedoms, and a scrupulous respect for human rights and dignity.

The socialist politician said that the socialist-Marxist plan, as he understands that ideology, has not failed in Nicaragua. He said that, in practice, such a plan should be democratic, humanist, and libertarian.

"What has failed," he said, "is an aberrant and degenerate Marxist-Stalinist-Castroite variant, the weaknesses of which have been exposed in various world forums. That is why (the Sandinists) have begun to rectify their course."

"The Sandinist plan," Sanchez insisted, "has challenged the laws of economics and political rationality and offended human dignity; that is why it had to fail."

In his speech, Adan Fletes tried to convince a predominantly opposition audience that the civic struggle has not been waged in vain.

In defense of this theory, the Social Christian politician said that the domestic opposition has "prevented the Cubanization" of the Nicaraguan process and kept the country's political system from being "closed."

According to Fletes, the Sandinist process "is now greatly weakened" and there are now strong possibilities of democratizing the country, if the opposition acts with intelligence and struggles with the support of a broad, democratic base.

Panama

Solis Palma Denies Mass Dismissals Planned

PA1806021588 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0025 GMT 18 Jun 88

[Statement by Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] I must thank you for asking your question because it lets me clarify some things. First, we are already making adjustments in the government payroll. In most cases, these are with regard to individuals who have jobs but who do nothing; in other words, the sinecures. Those people who receive two, three, and even four salaries must only get one salary. Retired people who hold jobs must also be affected. These are the first adjustments we must take and are taking. At no time have we spoken about mass dismissals. We have spoken about adjustments, about cleaning up the government payrolls, but in no way have we spoken about mass dismissals. However, we have asked each minister and director of autonomous institutions to speak with FENASEP [National Federation of Association of Public Employees] and the workers organizations in each of their institutions so we can reach agreements, because they share with us the need to clean up the government payroll.

We do not want more dismissals than is essential or required because of the previously mentioned reasons. We want to create a pool of government employees who are not working in an institution because there is no job for them in that institution, but perhaps in another institution there is more than enough work for them. For example, in the INDE [National Sports Institute] we have an excess of personnel for the maintenance of the sports stadiums who are doing nothing. Meanwhile, there are many schools that do not have custodians, janitors, and other personnel. In the Public Works Ministry there is also a shortage of some types of personnel. There is much to be done in Panama's public sector. Many streets are dirty. The grass needs to be cut. The necessary maintenance is not being done. We must create a pool of all those individuals who are not needed in some institutions so we can analyze and see which other institution they can be sent to. This way we can avoid dismissals that we do not want to make. At the same time, we need to have those in the public sector fulfill a function.

Promises Honest Elections

PA1906042888 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 18 Jun 88

["Exclusive" statement by Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency; place or date not given—recorded]

[Text] We are insisting, not only with the call by the Electoral Tribunal but by the efforts made by the executive branch, for all Panamanians, all political sectors, to take part in the elections. If there is anyone who still does not want to participate, then we can only regret this. However, we will go ahead with the elections. We are going to offer all the necessary guarantees so people can feel confident that situations will not arise during the elections that could be criticized, except those situations that the parties themselves cause.

Regardless of this, we shall take every step in our power to guarantee to the country that this will be done this way. I feel a bit concerned when I hear people make comments. In this country we all know each other, and I do not have any skeletons in my closet. I guarantee and give my word that there will be clean, pure, honest, and totally free elections. If they [not further identified] want to believe this, fine. However, there are many people who do not have the authority to question this.

Ritter on Inviting Election Monitor Observers

PA1806030488 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 0206 GMT 18 Jun 88

[Excerpts] Panama City, 17 Jun (REUTER)—Today Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter said that his government will invite international observers to watch the general elections scheduled for 1989.

Ritter said during an interview with REUTER and two international television networks that his government will go forward with the elections despite the economic crisis brought about by the U.S. sanctions aimed at forcing General Manuel Antonio Noriega, Panama's military leader, to resign.

"We intend to go forward with the elections in 1989. In cabinet meetings we have been studying how to obtain sufficient funds to hold the elections. It will be difficult, but we will do so anyway," Ritter said.

He said that Panamanian President Manuel Solis Palma has accepted a recommendation from a political party to get the United Nations and the OAS to supervise the elections next year.

"We will invite personalities from all countries," Ritter said.

Opposition leaders have said they will not participate in the elections unless public freedoms are guaranteed and opposition media are allowed to reopen. [passage omitted]

Opposition leaders who have traveled abroad have been unable to return.

Ritter said he expects these problems to be resolved before the elections, but he said the main obstacle to solving the political conflict is the economic sanctions approved by the United States.

"We have severe limitations because of the economic crisis. We are facing an awful situation but the people know that this is a national struggle and that they must pay the price of being independent," he said.

"No solutions will be achieved until the United States lifts the sanctions," Ritter added. [passage omitted]

Workers Confederation Pickets Labor Ministry

PA1706131088 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 Jun 88

[Text] This afternoon the Confederation of Workers of the Republic of Panama, CTRP, the largest organization of the Panamanian labor movement, picketed the installations of the Panamanian Labor Ministry to protest the current dismissals, leaves without pay, and work reductions, which have been occurring as a result of the seditious campaign promoted by the United States. That campaign is the cause of the country's difficult economic situation.

Workers demand that the Labor Ministry apply regulations guaranteeing the workers'rights, which are not renounceable. Concerning this issue, top CTRP leader Ricardo Monterrey said:

[Begin Monterrey recording] We came here to protest and deliver a note to the labor minister. In the note, we point out all the irregularities that exist within the ministry's General Directorate, the Conciliation Board, and in all the ministry's offices. The minister came downstairs, and we handed him the note. He promised to meet with us to discuss the problems we outlined.

I believe we have partly achieved our first goal. We will continue carrying out these and other actions if the Labor Ministry does not take measures to benefit our employees. They are taking away our right to work, the right that each of the employees we represent has.

The chief of the ministry's General Directorate unilaterally lifts workers' enterprise occupations [secuestros] without giving any reason or without any kind of understanding between the parties, simply because he wants to help some lawyers, who are his friends, or because he wants to help some enterprises. [end recording]

National Bank Announces New Cash Measure

PA1606170088 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 16 Jun 88 p 3

[Notice issued by the National Bank of Panama; date not given]

[Text] Notice

Cash in Current Account

Dear clients:

Beginning today, in our 50 branches we will begin making cash payments of up to $500 per month against available [unrestricted] funds in private and business current accounts.

With this new measure our clients will have more resources to develop their production activities and benefit Panama.

Remember that new cash deposits in all kinds of accounts will be available to you in cash.

Legislator on Uncollected Taxes of U.S. Firms

PA1706185088 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 16 Jun 88

[Interview with Legislator Bertilo Mejia, of the Christian Democratic Party, by unidentified RPC reporter following meeting with the comptroller general and planning minister; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Mejia] The Panamanian state has not received $260 million in foreign currency in the form of tax payments from U.S. companies. As of now, the treasury has not collected this amount; this is definitely very serious, because the country's economy, in the area of tax collection, is, we could say, touching bottom. To this, we must add the decrease of another $98 million during the 1st quarter of the current fiscal year. This indicates we are facing a very serious situation.

Logically, this situation is affecting public employees. For example, as of this moment they have not even received their checks for the first half of June. Thus, we cannot help but surmise that we are facing a very serious fiscal and economic situation at this very moment.

[Reporter] Legislator Mejia, will there be any attempts to recover the money that U.S. companies have not paid Panama?

[Mejia] Not that I know of. Quite the contrary; I believe that the U.S. Government has emphatically stated it will withhold that money. However, I can tell you that—according to statements made by the deputy planning and economic policy minister during this meeting—they are planning to resort to other credit sources that they call nontraditional sources. I do not know what these are.

We will definitely get nothing from the north, and the Panamanian state is suffering the consequences of this profound political crisis. The Panamanian people, who are the most affected right now, will also suffer the consequences. No solution is foreseen.

Civic Crusade Leader Brenes Returns From U.S.
PA1706124688 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2225 GMT 15 Jun 88

[Excerpts] Panama City, 15 Jun (ACAN-EFE)—Today opposition Civic Crusade Leader Roberto Brenes said that workers who had been fired because of the crisis should be rehired as an initial step toward attaining a propitious climate for Panama's financial development.

Brenes returned to Panama today after staying in the United States for 3 months. He said that during his stay in the United States he had studied a financial plan that would be implemented once the country's internal problems are resolved. [passage omitted]

Brenes added that the proposal includes an emergency plan to offset the extreme poverty caused by the past year's political crisis. The plan will be supported by the United States, the industrialized nations, the IMF, and the World Bank.

The opposition leader acknowledged that the sectors opposing General Noriega are "taking steps to attain a political agreement."

Although Brenes did not specify if the "political agreement" required Noriega's departure from Panama, he did note that Noriega's departure would not be a punishment but would bring about an amnesty.

He upheld his statement by saying that when the country goes through a real democratization process, "Noriega will not be able to withstand the accusations" against him. Those accusations include his alleged involvement in the murder of opposition member Hugo Spadafora, whose headless body was found on 13 September 1985.

Brenes said that he has not made any contacts with Latin American presidents or former presidents to search for a solution to the country's conflict. [passage omitted]

Deported Molirena Leader Allowed To Return
PA1806030688 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 Jun 88

[Text] Today Alfredo Ramirez, president of Molirena [Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement], disclosed, without elaborating, that the authorities will allow Dr Guillermo Casco Arias and his wife to return to the country. Casco and his wife were deported to Miami on Monday but the reasons are still unknown.

The political leader is expected to return Monday to resume his political and professional activities. Ramirez said:

[Begin Ramirez recording] I have also received reports from relatives and personal friends of Dr Casco Arias, who have said the authorities have informed him that he can return to Panama and will not be barred from entering the nation.

I understand Dr Casco Arias is preparing to return to Panama on Monday. I wish to take this opportunity to ask Molirena members who can do so to go to Tocumen airport to demonstrate our solidarity with Dr Casco Arias and our repudiation of the decision to deport him and his distinguished wife. [end recording]

Mediation Between Government, Media Proposed
PA1806040188 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 Jun 88

[Excerpt] Today Alfredo Jimenez, news director of the Panamanian daily LA PRENSA, told ACAN-EFE that the Journalists Union of Panama has agreed to mediate between the government and the directorates of the closed media to achieve their prompt reopening.

Meanwhile, the People's Unity Front, which coordinates labor, peasant, and government employee trade unions, presented a proposal for the prompt reopening of the closed media. [passage omitted]

Cuban Embassy Denies Report on Commando Action
PA1706225188 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2217 GMT 17 Jun 88

[Excerpt] Panama City, 17 Jun (ACAN-EFE)—Today the Cuban Embassy in Panama described as a "gross lie" a report that some 50 members of a Cuban special commando group attacked a U.S. base near Panama City on 12 April.

The Cuban Embassy was responding to a report published today by THE WASHINGTON POST, which reported in effect that Marines guarding the fuel depots at Howard Air Force Base had repelled some 50 Cubans belonging to the special commando groups known by the Soviet name of "Spetsnaz."

According to columnists Rowland Evans and Robert Novak, who cited espionage reports as their sources, this operation was supervised by the first secretary of the Cuban Embassy in Panama. According to THE WASHINGTON POST report, one attacker was killed and eight others were injured in the course of the operation.

It is just "one more gross lie," Cuban Embassy sources told ACAN-EFE. The sources commented that "those columnists have taken a long time to come up with this fabrication." [passage omitted]

Foreign Service Retirements, Removals Announced
PA1606170888 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 16 Jun 88 pp 1, 2

[Text] The executive branch continues to reorganize its foreign service and Foreign Ministry to implement the guidelines issued by President Manuel Solis Palma.

Decree No 164, dated 14 June 1988 and signed by President Solis Palma and Foreign Minister Jorge Eduardo Ritter, annuls the following appointments as a result of retirements:

Dr Mercedes Luisa Vidal, cultural attache to the Panamanian Embassy in Buenos Aires, Argentina, effective 1 June 1988.

Mrs Oris Garcia de Salazar, executive secretary III, effective 1 June 1988.

Mr Jorge Carrasco, translator, effective 1 October 1988.

Mr Antonio Messina, vehicle driver III, effective 1 November 1988.

Mrs Luz Maria Q. de Murray, Panamanian consul general 1st category, in Philadelphia, Pa., United States, effective 1 July 1988.

The following appointments have also been annulled as a result of a reorganization:

Mr Armando Oranges, attache to the Panamanian Embassy in Uruguay, effective 1 July 1988.

Dr Emilio Royo Linares, legal adviser, effective 1 July 1988.

Mrs Aurora C. Lopez, secretary III, effective 1 July 1988.

Miss Aracelly Ines Santos, secretary III and attache to the Panamanian Embassy in Costa Rica, effective 1 July 1988.

Mrs Edith de Angulo, executive secretary I, effective 1 July 1988.

Mrs Niurka Chavez, attache, effective 1 July 1988.

Mr Felix Miranda, attache to the Panamanian Embassy in Uruguay, effective 1 July 1988.

Dr Juan Borrel, assistant lawyer, for abandoning his post, effective 16 May 1988.

Also, Mr Roberto Lewis has returned to his post of attache to the Panamanian Embassy in Costa Rica.

Executive Branch Appoints Three New Governors
PA1706175788 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 16 Jun 88

[Text] The executive branch has appointed new governors in Chiriqui, Veraguas, and Los Santos Provinces. In Chiriqui, Manuel Torres replaces Alberto Sitton; in Veraguas, Enrique Maloff replaces Pedro Zeballos; and in Los Santos, Librado Cespedes replaces Emerito Rafael Martinez.

Argentina

Foreign Ministry Denies Sale of Mirages to RSA

PY1806124788 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1854 GMT 12 Jun 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 17 Jun (DYN)—The Foreign Ministry said today that a report disseminated in the United Kingdom regarding an alleged sale of Mirage III planes from Argentina to the RSA "is false, and attempts to distort the true position of Argentina in the foreign arena."

The communique adds that "the Argentine position regarding the racist RSA regime is clear and coherent, and meticulously follows the arms embargo established by UN Security Council Resolution 518 (77)."

The Foreign Ministry recalled that Argentina decided "to sever relations with Pretoria in May 1986" due to the RSA Government's policy of racial discrimination.

The news of the sale of Mirage III planes to the RSA was disseminated in London by the British news agency REUTER.

Notes Exchanged With Uruguay on Land Border

PY1806191488 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1600 GMT 18 Jun 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Jun (DYN)—Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo and his Uruguayan counterpart, Luis Barrios Tassano, today signed exchange notes for the demarcation of the border between the Martin Garcia and Timoteo Dominguez Islands, which is the only land frontier between both countries.

The exchange notes were signed at noon today in the San Martin Palace—the Argentine Foreign Ministry building—and not on Martin Garcia Island, as was previously scheduled. The meeting was not held there due to bad weather.

The ceremony was attended by diplomats and officials of both countries.

The two islands have been joined by alluvial soils which have settled between them over the years. The Timoteo Dominguez Island was created some 20 years ago by sediment that the Parana River carried into the River Plate. It emerged as a small island that was called Punta Bruza, and with the years it has become considerably larger.

After it was christened Timoteo Dominguez, the issue was raised about whether it belonged to Argentina or Uruguay. The matter was placed under the consideration of the River Plate Administrative Commission (CARP), which is comprised of Argentine and Uruguayan Foreign Ministry diplomats and technicians.

The notes/signed today entrusts the CARP with the mission of establishing the border between the two islands, and authorizes it to create a special subcommittee for performing this task. The notes also empower it to request technical support from the appropriate organs of each government.

The CARP was created by a bilateral treaty signed on 19 November 1973 which established Argentine sovereignty over the Martin Garcia Island. This treaty concerns the River Plate and its maritime coast.

The CARP is comprised of five delegates of each country and has a permanent secretariat. The CARP presidency changes annually. The 1988 presidency is held by Uruguayan Ambassador Edison Gonzalez Lapeyre and the vice presidency by Argentine representative Ernesto de la Guardia.

Oil Resale Plan To Include USSR, Iran, SRV

PY1906230188 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 18 Jun 88 p 5

[Text] (DYN)—Argentina has entered into negotiations to purchase oil abroad from trade partners for resale to others.

Specifically, the Soviet Union and Iran, the primary buyers of Argentine grain are experiencing balance of payments deficits due to the surplus of grain imports from Argentina. Argentine Industry and Foreign Trade Secretary Juan Ciminari stressed the policy of buying from those who buy one's goods.

Argentina sent a diplomatic mission to the Soviet Union to discuss the problem. The mission was comprised of the committee of the Exports Policies Secretary Pablo Quiroga, in addition to representatives from Interpetrol, the Argentine oil company with 49 percent state ownership.

The mission developed a plan to import petroleum products for resale in the United States and Europe. Such a plan would allow Argentina to continue exporting its agricultural products and promote sales of industrial goods as well.

Vietnam also has expressed interest in such a plan.

In addition, Foreign Minister Dante Caputo has promoted bilateral trade between Argentina and African nations such as Angola, Nigeria, Liberia, Egypt, and Algeria. These countries could offer profitable markets for Argentine industrial goods.

Proposals for Debt-Equity Swap Accepted

PY1906230788 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 18 Jun 88 p 5

[Text] (DYN)—The Central Bank accepted yesterday 15 of the 18 proposals made under the government's third round of debt-for-equity swaps.

The nominal value of the 15 proposals was 124.7 million dollars— subtracting the discount offered by the Central Bank, the real investment promised was 52.8 million dollars.

For the first time under the programme, a "two-part" proposal was accepted.

The Hotel Corporation of Argentina converted 37.4 million dollars of debt at a real cost of 10.8 million dollars. It will submit a similar bid during the next round of swaps to complete its investment.

Hoechst, which is to build a treatment plant for petroleum-based products, converted 2.6 million dollars in debt for 1.2 million dollars. Other companies to have their proposals approved were automaker Sevel, textile giant Alpargatas, the Valle de las Lenas ski resort, the daily La Nueva Provincia and the San Martin cement company.

UCR Convention Approves Platform for Elections
PY1706154088 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1311 GMT 17 Jun 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 17 Jun (TELAM)—The UCR national convention has approved the party's platform for the 1989 presidential elections and issued a document expressing support for the task of the constitutional government of President Raul Alfonsin, indicating that only with democracy will it be possible to obtain the growth that will put an end to dependency.

In the document, which sums up the extensive debates that began yesterday afternoon and conlcuded early this morning, the UCR's main body says that the anguish over the economic situation should not detract from the task that President Alfonsin's government has carried out since 1983.

It explains that at that time, it was necessary to achieve democracy in order to stimulate growth, thereby indicating that UCR is now in a position to undertake the structural reforms that it needs.

The document acknowledges the importance of demonopolization, the government's relinquishing of assets to the private sector, the incorporation of private capital in the area of services, integration process with Brazil and Uruguay, and the agreements witl. Italy and Spain as paths that have been opened up.

Participants Marcelo Marco (Buenos Aires), Alfredo Concepcion (Federal Capital), Daniel Cereghini (Buenos Aires), and Hector Grinspun (Buenos Aires), among others, drafted the document, which points out that the foreign debt and the deterioration of the trade terms limit growth.

The document highlights the fact that the Radicals will not be trapped in ideological debates, because they consider ideas to be important and will resort to all the instruments that will serve to satisfy them even when attempts are made to label them or place them in positions that they will never share.

The platform was based on documents submitted by 21 work committees and 1 drafting committee that was headed by Roberto Bidaut, a leader from Cordoba Province. Among the participants were: Raul Alconada Sempe, special affairs secretary of the Foreign Ministry; Juan Randojic, former public information and interior secretary; Marcel da Corte, head of the Internal Revenue Office; and Daniel Perez Enri, a UCR leader, who represented the faction that is promoting Luis Leon as its presidential candidate.

The party platform proposes constitutional reform on the basis of an agreement within society, indicating that this initiative must be directed at achieving juridical structures capable of absorbing political changes, thus strengthening institutional continuity.

Concerning foreign affairs and defense policies, the UCR platform supports the work done by the Alfonsin administration. The party also sponsors the reformation of the current structure of the state, which is centralized, bureaucratic, and technologically backward.

In the area of public works and services, the UCR platform advocates modernization and efficiency, and increased participation of private capital in the development and growth of those sectors that will help improve the services rendered to the people.

In the oil sector, the UCR stresses the need to promote prospecting to significantly increase the reserves, in an attempt to ensure permanent self-sufficiency.

The private sector will participate in the oil sector through appropriate contracts, aiming at promoting prospecting and development of our reserves, preserving the state's decisionmaking and sovereignty over the subsoil without making any concessions.

The economic policy of the UCR platform gave rise to heated debate, because the convention approved the project submitted by the corresponding commission, with the opposition of the delegates of the Radical rank-and-file movement that supports the nomination of Leon as the presidential candidate.

The approved project confirms the position that the government and the party have adopted, advocating a political solution to the foreign debt problem, stressing—among other major items—the need to reduce the fiscal deficit and the inflation rate.

The UCR platform rejects the simplistic proposals based on economic myths and slogans, adding that the nation will not assume responsibility for the inappropriate use of public funds in the provinces.

The delegates who support Leon proposed a Radical program for 1989, but the convention decided to exclude it from the agenda on the grounds that the way it was presented was not in line with the party charter, because it was not proposed by any of the commissions that drew up the platform.

Bolivia

Chamber of Deputies Issues Paper on Recent Events

PY1706142388 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 17 Jun 88

[Text] The recent events and incidents [narcotics video and related events] that have occurred in the country during the past 2 months are the result of a plot engineered by the international drug mafia, which has not hesitated in using all the resources available to it to impair the honor of institutions under the pretext of carrying out a moralizing campaign.

This statement is contained in a document that was unanimously approved and issued by the Chamber of Deputies during yesterday's session.

The document warns that those who govern and those who are governed are now facing a new and refined type of international crime. This crime intends to take power in the nation through the vile system of impairing the honor of the branches of government and of the political, military, and police institutions with the objective of sowing doubt and uncertainty throughout the nation and the world.

The document also warns the national and international public that the criminal power the mafia has obtained can dangerously overpower the capability for national defense to the extent of endangering the life style and democratic system of our republic.

The document also indicates that at this time when the country's institutional security and democracy are at serious risk, the political parties represented in Congress declare their firm resolution to form a sole front against the international drug mafias that have turned our country and other nations into centers of dispute where they intend to settle their bastard interests at the cost of our history and values.

Legislators Leave for U.S. Drug Conference

PY1806152688 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 18 Jun 88

[Excerpt] Congress President Julio Garret and legislators (Gonzalo Bauda) and (Guillermo Tineo) are leaving today for Washington where they will take part in a meeting to be attended by Andean region legislators and U.S. congressmen.

The objective of this meeting is to study regional relations and the prospects for achieving regional cooperation in the struggle against drug trafficking. [passage ommitted]

Finance Minister Discusses IMF Loan Terms

PY1806182888 La Paz Radio Fides in Spanish 1645 GMT 18 Jun 88

[Excerpt] Finance Minister Juan Cariaga has said that the IMF is not a charitable organization, and that like every other bank it demands that its debtors keep a healthy and balanced economy, so that loans will be repayed. The minister explained the terms of an accord with the IMF, which granted an expanded financial credit of $180 million.

The minister said the IMF grants that type of loan only to countries that have been affected by external factors, such as a raw material price slump.

[Begin Cariaga recording] This is why the IMF programs release the funds, which are not, however, freely disposable funds or funds to be used as a budgetary income source or to be invested in projects. They are funds that support the balance of payments, providing dollars to the Central Bank so that it can comfortably continue to perform its foreign trade operations despite external shocks or foreign trade problems that may harm our internal economic program. [end recording]

The IMF loan will be disbursed over a 3-year period, and will be repaid over a 10-year term at the small interest rate of 0.5 percent.

[Begin Cariaga recording] This loan will be disbursed over a 3-year period, which will allow the Bolivian Central bank to comfortably perform its foreign trade and exchange market operations without the shocks of devaluation, and without fear, panic, and (?expectations). The loan will calm down the exchange market. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Joint Commission Established With Brazil

PY1806154088 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 18 Jun 88

[Excerpt] Bolivian Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal Gutierrez has reported that the Bolivian and Brazilian Governments have signed agreements which call for the two countries to establish a permanent joint commission. Bedregal added that Brazilian Foreign Minister Roberto de Abreu Sodre and Bolivian Ambassador Jaime Balcazar signed the agreements at the Brazilian Foreign Ministry in Brasilia. He said the objective of the joint commission is to strengthen bilateral relations by implementing programs that seek to achieve a greater bilateral integration.

The foreign minister said the joint commission will open a secretariat that will look after all pertinent issues. [passage omitted]

Brazil

Chief of Staff Criticizes Salaries, Government

PY1806005088 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 17 Jun 88 p 27

[Text] One day after the Superior Labor Court (TST) decision that the freeze on the URP (Price Readjustable Unit) for employees of state-owned companies is unsconstitutional, the chief of the Armed Forces General Staff (EMFA) Brigadier Paulo Roberto Camarinha granted an interview to the Brazilian news Agency (EBN), which is also state-owned. In the interview Camarinha discussed the concern and problems that military and public employees are facing as a result of the TST decision.

Camarinha recalled President Jose Sarney's speech at the Superior War School on Monday, in which he said the country is financially exhausted.

Camarinha stated: "I want to repeat that I really do not know whether the people have fully complied with the decree published on 7 April; what we do know is that several self-supporting state companies have appealed to the courts." He also condemned the Maharajas, those who receive extremely high salaries in the legislative and judiciary branches, "because it is absurd that a barber working for the Chamber of Deputies earns much more than 160,000 cruzados. My son, who is a first lieutenant in the Air Force, does not earn that much.

Camarinha added that only salaries were affected by the freeze, "but prices went sky high, and this is impossible to deny." He criticized the increase in the cost of public services, which was "much above the inflation rate," and he gave the increase in fuel prices is a typical example. Camarinha cannot understand how some public employees can earn less than the minimum salary: "I think Minister Batista de Abreu—and I am speaking frankly—must adopt some measures. This cannot go on, because if it does, we do not need a minister. It would be better for him to stay at home and do paperwork." He added that the problem of school tuition must also be solved, "because unless some measures are adopted, I do not know what is going to happen."

Brig Camarinha added that he is defending not just the military, but public employees in general. Moreover, he said that the main concern of the military is what is going to happen in January, when salaries will be increased by the IPC (Consumers Price Index) to compensate for losses sustained in 1988.

Camarinha also said he had requested that President Jose Sarney issue a decree compensating those whose salaries were frozen between July and December. Camarinha said the compensation should be 4.38 percent monthly.

Sarney Dismisses Armed Forces Chief of Staff

PY1706180688 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1600 GMT 17 Jun 88

[Excerpt] President Sarney has dismissed Armed Forces Chief of Staff Lieutenant Brigadier Paulo Roberto Camarinha. The president, who early today left for Petronila, Pernambuco State, signed the resolution dismissing Camarinha last night. At noon today, the presidential decision was announced at Planalto Palace by civilian cabinet chief Ronaldo Costa Couto.

[Begin recording] [Costa Couto] I really have no comments to make on the subject. I just wanted to release this communique to you. I also want to explain that the communique was not released to the press yesterday because of the hour at which it was issued, 2330 at the Alvorada Palace. It was impossible to publish the resolution in the gazetteer today.

[Unidentified reporter] Has the president named Camarinha's replacement?

[Costa Couto] The matter is under consideration by the president and the armed forces commanders.

It will be a Navy officer. [end recording]

Camarinha yesterday gave a news conference to the Brazilian News Agency during which he criticized the government's salary policy and condemned the freeze on the price readjustable unit—URP. [passage omitted]

Names Lisieux New EMFA Chief

PY1806000888 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 17 Jun 88

[Text] The government revealed a short time ago the name of the next chief of the Armed Forces General Staff, EMFA: Admiral Valbert Lisieux Medeiros de Figueiredo. Lisieux is the Navy commander of operations in Rio de Janeiro. The new chief will be sworn in at 1300 on 20 June.

Comments on Situation

PY1906210388 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 19 Jun 88 p 5

[Text] Sao Paulo—Having dismissed on the previous day Brigadier Paulo Roberto Camarinha, chief of the Armed Forces General Staff, President Jose Sarney stated yesterday at the Palacio dos Bandeirantes in Sao Paulo that he is convinced the political transition will be carried out in a climate of peace, tranquillity, and security. The president emphasized the cooperation of politicians and members of the Armed Forces who, according to him, have lent their decisive support to the process of redemocratization.

The president, who arrived in Sao Paulo accompanied by eight ministers and Constituent Assembly President Ulysses Guimaraes, signed an agreement with Sao Paulo Governor Orestes Quercia to establish the United Decentralized Health System (SUDS) [Sistema Unificado e Descentralizado de Saude] in Sao Paulo State.

Sarney said Camarinha's dismissal is a closed case: "As far as I am concerned, this is an administrative matter, and it is closed."

The president added that during his government the military have not been placed on alert one single day for political reasons: "This means the democratic process has taken root and political power, which is the highest of all powers, has gained strength."

The president also praised Ulysses Guimaraes, whom he called "a statesman and one of the main pillars of the transition process."

Guimaraes Comments

PY1806011688 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 17 Jun 88

[Text] Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes, president of the PMDB, the Chamber of Deputies, and the Constituent Assembly, has said the president of the republic is responsible for the work of his ministers. Asked about the removal of EMFA [Armed Forces General Staff] Chief Brigadier Camarinha, Guimaraes said a minister should resign when he does not agree with government policies.

[Begin Guimaraes recording] When a minister disagrees with the basic aspects of government policy, when he repeatedly expresses his disagreement, he is in fact resigning. This is what I understand. He is not really dismissed by the government. He is resigning. What the president has done is common practice here, and in other parts of the world. [end recording]

Army Minister Supports Decision

PY1806120888 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 18 Jun 88

[Excerpt] Army Minister General Leonidas Pires Goncalves has supported President Sarney's decision to dismiss the Armed Forces chief of staff. Gen Pires Goncalves, who is visiting the PRC, learned about the decision over the phone. Acting Army Minister Waldir Eduardo Martins called Pires Goncalves on the phone while Pires was in Shanghai and read him the statements made by Camarinha during a news conference. [passage omitted]

PMDB Constituent Assembly Leader Resigns

PY1706170688 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1600 GMT 17 Jun 88

[Excerpt] Senator Mario Covas resigned this morning as leader of the PMDB bloc in the Constituent Assembly. During the plenary session of the Assembly, the senator announced his decision.

Senator Covas has been the PMDB bloc leader since April 1987. He conducted all the negotiations of the Constituent Assembly, especially during the last phase. He submitted his resignation at a time when least 20 articles of the transitory constitutional provisions have yet to be approved. [passage omitted]

Government To Abide by Court URP Decision

PY1806134888 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 18 Jun 88

[Text] Finance Minister Mailson da Nobrega has said that if the courts decide that public servants must be paid the URP [Readjustable Price Unit] for April and May, the government will abide by the decision. The minister, however, said that the government will have to adopt measures to reduce the public deficit, like increasing taxes and utility rates, reducing investments, and probably dismissing employees. According to da Nobrega, nonpayment of the URP for 2 months was a method that the government used to avoid adopting the aforemeasures

Chile

Pinochet Announces Reduction of Tax Rate

PY1806032788 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 Jun 88

[Relay from Valparaiso by Graciela Contreras]

[Excerpt] Business and commercial sectors of the country have expressed great satisfaction over the news released here by President Augusto Pinochet that the VAT [Value Added Tax] rate will be reduced from 20 to 16 percent.

In an impromptu meeting with the press at Valparaiso City Hall, the president stated that in compliance with the government objective of distributing the benefits of economic development, and considering the current tax-burden level, he today submitted a bill to the Government Junta to reduce the VAT rate from 20 to 16 percent.

This reduction will take effect on the date the law is published. [passage omitted]

PSD Seeks Coalition Excluding Marxist Factions

PY1806143688 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 18 Jun 88

[Text] Social Democratic Party [PSD] President Arturo Venegas has made another call to the so-called democratic parties in the opposition to form a coalition, excluding the ones with Marxist leanings.

In a comunique, Venegas reasserted the PSD rejection of the disruptive and revolutionary connotation that the proscribed PCCh is giving to the no-vote alternative in the upcoming plebiscite.

Venegas said that the PCCh decision to vote no must lead the democratic opposition parties to carefully ponder the meaning of their alliances.

We, Venegas said, believe that the outcome of the plebiscite, whatever it is, must be respected. Confrontations must be avoided; it is harmful to the Chilean people, not to those irresponsible people making these calls to rebellion.

Bombing in Concepcion; Damage But No Injuries

PY1706185588 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 17 Jun 88

[By reporter Jose Concha from Concepcion]

[Text] A total of eight bombings were reported in the past few hours in Lota and Talcahuano Districts in Concepcion Province. In Talcahuano, a bomb damaged a Public Health Service Office. The cost of the damage was estimated to be about 1.5 million pesos.

The terrorist escalation began in Lota, a mining district, when unidentified individuals detonated a bomb, made up of about 1 kg of ammonium gelignite, in the Fundicion District of Lota Alto. The cost of the damage has not yet been estimated.

Almost simultaneously, a 1-hour blackout occurred after chains were thrown over the powerlines in (Cancha Hidrogue) District.

Later, unidentified individuals detonated six noise bombs in Lota District. The people were upset but no injuries were reported.

Simultaneously, antisocial individuals set up a barricade in the (Puente Los Caleros) area, interrupting the traffic. Later, the Carabineros removed the barricades, allowing traffic to circulate again. No one was detained.

The most seriouis situation, however, occurred early this morning in Talcahuano District when extremists detonated a bomb at the front door of the environment sanitation department of the public health service office, at 322 San Martin Street. The bomb partially destroyed the front door, the office windows, and at least 60 windows in neighboring houses.

Colombia

M-19 Confirms Kidnapping of Gomez Hurtado

PA2006000088 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 2212 GMT 19 Jun 88

[Excerpts] Bogota, 19 Jun (REUTER)—M-19 guerrillas have claimed responsibility for kidnapping Colombian Conservative leader Alvaro Gomez Hurtado 21 days ago and said their hostage's state of health and his morale are excellent.

An amount of purported guerrilla documents, including a copy of the order to capture Gomez Hurtado, signed on 23 April by M-19 leader Carlos Pizarro, was released last night to the press media.

A second document, dated 4 June, confirmed that the kidnapping was carried out by the "Jaime Bermejo" Command of the M-19, named after a guerrilla who was captured and killed last April in Bogota.

The report stated that Gomez Hurtado was not wounded in the operation and was taken to the M-19 "Martyrs of Uraba" camp. Uraba is a banana region in northwest Colombia where 42 peasants were killed this year.

"Gomez' state of health and his morale are excellent, and he behaves admirably," the document read. [passage omitted]

The kidnappers called themselves "Colombians for National Salvation" in prior contacts with relatives of the Conservative leader, but the Colombian Government insisted it was the M-19.

Pizarro said that the kidnapping of Gomez Hurtado was jusitified because "the oligarchy in this country is responsible for the national crisis and...the crisis should be faced with emergency measures."

Pizarro's orders to his subordinates was to "find and capture Alvaro Gomez Hurtado, or if he was not available, to capture another renowned exponent of the oligarchic regime that has promoted forceful solutions to the national crisis."

The guerrillas did not raise new demands to release the 69-year-old politician. [passage omitted]

Conservatives Announce End to Opposition Stand

PA1806122688 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 17 Jun 88

[Text] Today the Conservative Party explained that a suspension of its opposition stand does not mean it is seeking positions but is rather suspending its institutional criticism of the government to hold dialogues with all sectors in order to achieve solutions to the country's serious problems. Jesus Garzon filed this report:

[Begin recording] [Garzon] The Liberal Party announced that tomorrow [6-second break in reception] Social Conservative Party's decision to slow down the government-opposition scheme and to seek a joint solution to the crisis that is afflicting the country:

[Former President Misael Pastrana] As for a break in [30-second break in reception].

[Garzon] Today the Social Conservative Party suspended the opposition stand that it had been maintaing for the past 22 months against the Liberal Government of President Barco. This important decision was made following two lengthy meetings between the Conservative Party's National Directorate and Directorate leader former President Misael Pastrana Borrero.

The Conservatives declared the failure and a break in the government-opposition scheme in the face of the difficult situation facing the country. Pastrana stated that he will hold dialogues with various sectors to seek pacification formulas:

[Pastrana] There is currently no room for the practice of opposition when the institutions are submerged in the most profound crisis and the entire system is about to crumble. Thus, we are ready to slow down the democratic exercise of opposition.

[Garzon] Breaking the opposition stand does not mean that the Conservatives are seeking ties with the government but that they are putting an end to Conservative criticism of the government:

[Conservative Felio Andrade Manrique] The Conservative Party is not by any means doing this to get cushy jobs or power quotas. We are realizing that the country is about to fall into an abyss, if it is not already there.

[Garzon] However, the Liberal Party's National Directorate will meet to issue an official statement on the Conservative proposal. [end recording]

As Jesus Garzon reported, the Liberal Party's National Directorate will meet tomorrow to issue an official reply to the Conservative decision. [Liberal] Senator Hernando Duran Dussan said that this is an in-depth initiative.

We also talked to [New Liberalism] Senator Galan and the Patriotic Union [UP] president [Bernardo Jaramillo]. Carlos Mario Diaz filed this report:

[Begin recording] [Diaz] The Liberal Party announced a special meeting tomorrow to analyze the Social Conservative Party's decision to slow down the government-opposition scheme and to seek a joint solution to the crisis afflicting the country:

[Duran] As for the break in the scheme, I proposed a national salvation cabinet. If Dr Pastrana had issued a document at the time I made that proposal, it is probable that my proposal would have been accepted. I do not believe that the scheme is being broken now as a result of Dr Misael Pastrana's proposal.

[Diaz] In this regard, Senator Luis Carlos Galan said that what the country really needs are actions:

[Galan] What worries me is that these things are delayed too long and this affects the possibility of reaching specific solutions through specific steps. The country—this is commonplace, but we must repeat this—wants more action and less talk.

[Diaz] Meanwhile, the UP said this about the Social Conservative Party's decision:

[Jaramillo] We believe that it is essential that the Liberal Party, as the party entrusted with the responsibility of ruling at this moment, heed this proposal. The UP will be ready to do just that. [end recording]

Liberal Party Responds

PA1806212988 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1800 GMT 18 Jun 88

[Text] There are three important points in the statement released by the National Liberal Directorate [DLN] today:

First, the DLN does not accept the Social Conservative Party's proposal to dismantle the government-opposition arrangement;

Second, the DLN agrees to a multiparty dialogue, just as the Social Conservative Party proposes;

And third, the DLN believes the new presidential cabinet must remain as it is.

Air Force Leader: Armed Forces Not 'Tied Up'

PA1706170188 Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 17 Jun 88

[Text] Bogota—Air Force Commander Alfredo Ortega, who was promoted to lieutenant general [general de tres soles], has denied that the Armed Forces are tied up, because defense is a permanent task.

As for statements by General Rafael Pena Rios, retired, that the Armed Forces are tied up in their fight against subversion, the new lieutenant general admitted there are difficult circumstances in the struggle, but they are not insurmountable.

He confirmed that UH-60 helicopters will arrive in mid-July. He added that Kfir planes will take a little longer.

ELN Guerrillas Attack Oil Pipeline 16 June

PA1806133388 Paris AFP in Spanish 1755 GMT 17 Jun 88

[Text] Bogota, 17 Jun (AFP)—Last night pro-Cuban Army of National Liberation (ELN) guerrillas staged three new attacks on Colombia's most important oil pipeline, which carries oil from wells in Cano Limon on the Venezuelan border to the Caribbean coast. This brings to 45 the total number of dynamite attacks on the pipeline this year.

Today Colombian police told AFP that the attacks occurred at kilometer markers 71, 72, and 409 of the 784-km-long pipeline. A large amount of oil was spilled, causing an environmental emergency in the agricultural village of Pelaya in northeastern Cesar Province. The pumping of oil has been suspended for 5 days, according to the Colombian Petroleum Enterprise (Ecopetrol).

The police report for the last 12 hours adds that one soldier was killed and two wounded in a clash with FARC guerrillas in Rovira jurisdiction, Tolima Department.

Five ELN guerrillas were killed in a clash with troops who had discovered a guerrilla operations center in San Vicente de Chucuri, northeastern Santander Province. Guerrilla leader Isnardo Luna, also known as Captain Parmenio, was killed in this action.

The day's violence included the murder of three businessmen in the southeastern city of Cali, 500 km from Bogota.

Meanwhile, the Maoist Popular Liberation Army (EPL) attacked a cattle farm in Planeta Rica jurisdiction, northwestern Cordoba Province, killing the foreman and setting fire to machinery and several vehicles.

Finally, in a fight between emerald merchants in the village of Muzo in the Andean Boyaca Province, a man was killed and six others seriously wounded by a grenade.

Officials on Losses From Oil Pipeline Attacks

PA1706140088 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1836 GMT 16 Jun 88

[Text] Bogota, 16 Jun (EFE)—Colombia has not been able to export 11 million barrels of oil in 1988 because of more than 40 rebel attacks against the country's main oil pipeline. The last two guerrilla attacks on the pipeline took place yesterday.

Colombian Petroleum Enterprise (Ecopetrol) spokesmen have stated that attacks during 1988 forced the firm to stop pumping crude oil through the oil pipeline for 55 days. The oil pipeline is 800 km long and joins Cano Limon—the main oil-producing area—with the Covenas port on the Caribbean coast.

Ecopetrol President Jose Francisco Chona has estimated that up to May 1988 Colombia has lost more than $70 million because of the dynamite attacks. The last attacks are not included in this figure. At the Cano Limon site, 200,000 barrels of crude oil are extracted daily, and the entire production is for export. (Colombia produces approximately 400,000 barrels of oil per day, and oil is the country's second largest source of foreign exchange, exceeded only by coffee.)

The attacks have also caused 2.6 million barrels of oil to spill—a loss of $3.9 million. Ecopetrol has spent $7.9 million to repair the pipeline sections that were dynamited by the rebels and to control the environmental effects of the oil spills. The attacks on the pipeline were carried out by the pro-Castro National Liberation Army (ELN), headed by Spanish priest Manuel Perez.

Colombian Mines and Energy Minister Oscar Mejia Vallejo, who was appointed by President Virgilio Barco last week and who started in his new position today, made his first statements to the press today. He said he was willing to negotiate with the ELN to end the wave of attacks that have caused the country so much loss.

Although his proposal has been backed by Attorney General Horacio Serpa, Minister Mejia himself has acknowledged that yesterday's attacks on the pipeline "apparently are the ELN's negative response to our request for a dialogue."

The ELN has said it will continue attacks against the Cano Limon-Covenas oil pipeline and other oil industry facilities until the government ejects multinational corporations from the country. Mejia, however, has said foreign capital is indispensable for the development of the Colombian oil industry.

Colombia has only been self-sufficient in petroleum for the past 2 years, when it started to export crude oil. Because of deficiencies in its refineries, however, Colombia must still import gasoline and other fuels.

Ecuador

Bomb Responsible for Air Force Plane Crash

PA1906122588 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2357 GMT 18 Jun 88

[Text] Quito, 18 Jun, (EFE)—A bomb explosion was the cause of the 3 June plane accident that took the lives of the Ecuadoran Air Force's [FAE] top officers, seven other military men, and the Israeli Embassy military attache, the Quito newspaper LA HORA reported today.

The paper said the crash was not the result of human or technical error, but of a bomb explosion. The paper based its assertion on the opinion of a "technician in this field" whom it did not identify.

LA HORA said the explosion caused a crack in the fuselage and depressurized the plane, which then broke into two "and therefore fell to earth in flames."

The technician labeled "completely false" the official version that the accident was caused by bad weather, or human or technical error, and said it was an "outright lie" that the plane did not have a "black box."

The "Sabreliner" executive airplane crashed northeast of Quito 2 weeks ago, just 3 minutes before landing at the Mariscal Sucre Airport.

The accident took the lives of FAE Commanding General Angel Flores; Deputy Commander General Raul Cousin; third in command General Galo Coronel; Lieutenant Colonels Luis Lopez, Jose Alberto Naranjo, and Eleodoro Costales; Major Mario Estrella; Captains Nelson Maldonado and Galo Benalcazar; Corporal Klever Briceno; and Israeli Military Attache Shabtay Ben-shu'a.

Workers Reject Presidential Wage Increase Bill

PA1806174388 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 18 Jun 88

[Excerpts] The Ecuadoran Government has sent a bill to the National Congress increasing the minimum monthly wage from 14,500 sucres or $29 to 19,000 sucres or $38. Ecuadoran workers, however, rejected this increase and announced demonstrations throughout the country.

President Febres-Cordero vetoed the wage increase bill that the National Congress had previously approved. That bill increased the minimum wage to 21,000 sucres or $42 per month. [passage omitted]

Febres-Cordero said the Congress's wage increase bill did not take the country's economic condition into account, so he was forced to veto it. [passage omitted]

Paraguay

Opposition Leader Criticizes Argentine Regime

PY1806230888 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2029 GMT 18 Jun 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Jun (TELAM)—Hermes Rafael Saguier, a Paraguayan opposition leader, today said there are no optimistic prospects for the political struggle against General Alfredo Stroessner's dictatorial regime. Acknowledging that Paraguayan opposition groups have made mistakes, Saguier said: We have been unable to formulate a proposal for a transition period.

Saguier, a leader of the Authentic Radical Liberal Party, regretted the lack of ideas by opposition members to challenge the military regime. He regarded as paramount the formulation of a specific proposal to promote mobilization by the people to ultimately oust the dictator.

Criticizing some Argentine political sectors that maintain ties with Stroessner, Saguier said that no one can remain neutral in the face of Paraguayan dictatorship. He added that the Paraguayan Government has launched a well-planned campaign abroad to the point that it now has three cards to play in Argentina: Aldo Rico, Carlos Menem, and Alvaro Alsogaray.

Saguier said: I have no doubt that these people are receiving financial aid from Stroessner. Regarding the specific case of Justicialist presidential hopeful Carlos Menem, Saguier said: Menem can deny that he received $3 million, but he cannot deny that he received a van as a present because there is a notarized document whereby ownership of the van was transferred to him, and it was brought to Argentina.

Saguier, who came to Argentina with former prisoner Capt Napoleon Ortigoza, said that Argentine-Paraguayan relations will heat up if Buenos Aires Governor Antonio Cafiero wins the Presidency, because Cafiero will not allow members of his own party to attack him using Paraguay as a base.

Saguier wholeheartedly praised President Raul Alfonsin who, in his opinion, is not among those who believe that pragmatism should prevail over moral principles. He also regarded Cafiero, Juan Casella, Carlos Grosso, Jose de La Sota, and Luis Leon as friends of the Paraguayan cause.

Peru

Garcia Meets Indian Foreign Affairs Secretary

PY1806144688 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 18 Jun 88

[Text] President Alan Garcia has met with Indian Foreign Affairs Secretary Mr Menon, who last Thursday began an official visit to our country. The visitor arrived at Government House with India's United Nations Department Director General Prakash Shah and Indian Ambassador to Peru Savitri Kunadi. The meeting, which lasted approximately 1 hour and was also attended by Foreign Minister Luis Gonzalez Posada, was held at the Golden Hall. It was learned that Garcia and the visitor addressed matters of common interest, particularly in connection with cooperation and commerce.

Villanueva on 27 June Talk, Terrorism, Morote

PY1806164488 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 18 Jun 88

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Armando Villanueva del Campo has denied that he will mediate in the SUTEP [Single Union of Educational Workers of Peru] strike. He added that the social peace will be strictly preserved in Peru.

[Begin recording] [Passage omitted] [Reporter] Mr President [as heard], will all demonstrations be forbidden like the one sponsored by the CGTP [General Confederation of Peruvian Workers]?

[Villanueva] Lima is under a state of emergency. Consequently, demonstrations are forbidden.

[Reporter] Is it possible to talk about price readjustment without negotiations?

[Villanueva] That question will be answered by the economy minister tomorrow.

[Reporter] Mr Minister, in view of the current state of disturbance in Peru, would you issue a call to all Peruvians in your capacity as prime minister?

[Villanueva] On 27 June we will submit the government program, as set forth in the Constitution. On that date I will give comprehensive details on the courses to be followed in order to overcome this crisis, which is obviously serious from a sociopolitical point of view.

Yet I want to discuss some of the details which I will give on 27 June: We abide by the law. The government, of which the cabinet that I preside is an organ, will at no time violate the law, the Constitution, or human rights. At no time will we tolerate human rights violations or violations of the Constitution. We will defend and abide by the Constitution and we will use all of our energy to prevent any attempt to violate the law, cause disorder, provoke distress, and impair Peru's image abroad.

Worst of all, there is a sort of national fear which has appeared in Peru and which has made some people feel like leaving. We will give all guarantees to all Peruvians so that they can stay, work, and exercise their rights with their own efforts, and so that they can reach standards of well-being. We will defend the rights of Peruvians from terrorism and subversion with all our energy.

[Reporter] Violent acts have become more intense since the arrest of Osman Morote. Has a strategy been designed to control this situation?

[Villanueva] I do not believe Mr Morote's arrest has anything to do with the stoppage. His arrest was just another antiterrorist action and it has not provoked any protest.

[Reporter] Yet, Mr Minister, people are afraid of what might happen.

[Villanueva] Well, as I said before, some sectors of the population are afraid of terrorist threats. I want to tell them that they should not be afraid, that they must feel safe because the government will give them all guarantees, and that all Peruvians will share the victory of democracy over terrorism.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] legal vacuum in connection with the prosecution of Mr Osman Morote. Is there such a situation? Apparently, no one as yet knows what to do with Mr Morote: either take him to the courts, where there is a trial waiting for him, or begin a new trial.

[Villanueva] As I see it, there is no legal vacuum. It is a matter of procedure, which the courts will resolve.

[Reporter] Is Peru receiving military advice in this case?

[Villanueva] Not at all, we have no military advisers in connection with the antiterrorist law. No foreign country has provided us with advisers. Absolutely not.

[Reporter] As for studies...

[Villanueva, interrupting] No. We have no foreign military advisers for the antiterrorist struggle.

[Reporter] Will there be any kind of contact with [words indistinct] of foreign countries on how to fight subversion?

[Villanueva]If you read all the existing books on the subject, they would not provide military, but cultural, advice. One should read all available publications, keep abreast of events, and have what we could call an antiterrorist culture. [end recording]

Home of Prosecutor Investigating Morote Bombed

PY1706034688 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 18 Jun 88

[Excerpt] Terrorists have thrown a home-made bomb at the house of Prosecutor Debora Altamirano, who is in charge of investigating the case of Osman Morote, the second in command of the Shining Path. The bomb only caused property damage.

Last night the house of Prosecutor Altamirano was the object of a firebomb attack by presumed terrorists. Altamirano is in charge of investigating the Osman Morote case. The attack took place at 1045, and the objective was to steal documents referring to Morote, who is said to be the second in command of the subversive Shining Path organization.

A man dressed in black and wearing red gloves and a second person reportedly entered one of the rooms of the two-story building. In the prosecutor's bedroom they searched all furniture, including the bed and drawers, but did not find anything.

At the time of the attack, only the daughters and a niece of the prosecutor were in the house. As soon as they detected the presence of strange people in the house they opened the second floor window and shouted to the neighbors for help. Thanks to the neighbors, there was no further attack on the people in the house. [passage omitted]

Shining Path Leader Turned In by Informer

PY1906031988 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1921 GMT 18 Jun 88

[Text] Lima, 18 Jun (EFE)—A member of the Maoist Shining Path organization has collected $50,000 for reporting Osman Marote to the police. Morote, who was arrested on 11 June, is considered the second most important Shining Path leader.

Citing "highly reliable sources," the newspaper LA REPUBLICA reports today that the informer is still active within the Shining Path ranks and that he is willing to turn in another guerrilla leader if he is paid a cash reward.

Peruvian officials have offered a reward to anyone who would help them arrest Abimael Guzman—a teacher, founder, and leader of the Shining Path organization—and other leaders, such as Julio Cesar Mezzich and Osmar Morote.

Morote is being held at the Antiterrorist Directorate (Dircote) while the Lima Second Criminal Court is preparing to bring him to trial.

According to LA REPUBLICA, Morote is being held in a cell that is guarded by two policemen. He is reportedly kept standing with his hands tied behind his back.

MRTA Activist Killed While Handling Bomb

PY1806192788 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0436 GMT 18 Jun 88

[Text] Lima, 17 Jun (EFE)—A young woman who, according to the police, was involved with the MRTA guerrilla organization was killed today by a bomb blast in a house in Lima. The bomb exploded while she was handling it.

Police sources have reported that the young woman was Cristina Flores, 24, and that her brother Fernando and sister Margarita were injured in the incident.

The youths, all of whom are university students, were handling a bomb made up of blasting powder, aluminum, and acid at a house located in the Pueblo Libre district of Lima.

The police have also reported on a bomb attack in Lima on the house of Prosecutor Dora Altamirano, who is handling terrorist cases.

Altamirano is currently conducting proceedings in connection with the detention, last Sunday, of Osman Morete, who is described by police as the "second in command" of the Maoist Shining Path guerrilla organization.

Today the police continued with street raids and security measures in an effort to forestall possible terrorist attacks to mark on 19 June the 2d anniversary of the killing of some 300 Shining Path members who rioted in three penitentiaries in Lima.

Police sources also reported the detention of a Shining Path member, a student of La Cantuta State University in Lima. The detainee has been charged with killing Yugoslav businessman Branko Pejnovich in April 1988.

The Yugoslav businessman was the first foreigner living in Peru to be killed in a direct terrorist attack. However, in 1986 seven tourists from different countries were killed in a bomb attack against a passenger train operating between the city of Cusco and the Machu Picchu ruins.

The second foreigner killed in a direct terrorist attack was U.S. engineer Constantin Orson Gregori, 25, who was killed on 15 June by a Shining Path firing squad in Jauja Province in the Andean area.

Police Prevent Labor Protest March; Arrest 100

PY1706030988 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0236 GMT 17 Jun 88

[Excerpt] Lima, 16 Jun (EFE)—Today the police arrested about 100 people in a downtown Lima square. Those arrested were about to conduct a protest march against government labor policies.

The demonstrators included public school teachers, who are on indefinite strike; civil construction workers, who are demanding higher salaries and who plan to begin a strike tomorrow; and members of other unions affilliated with the communist "General Confederation of Peruvian Workers" (CGPT).

According to press reports, the police cordoned off the zone where the march was to begin and broke up the demonstration with antiriot material. There were no violent actions on the part of the workers. [passage omitted]

Uruguay

Foreign Minister Confirms Visit of Cuban Official

PY1706141688 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0930 GMT 17 Jun 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Luis Barrios Tassano has confirmed that Cuban Deputy Foreign Minister Ricardo Alarcon will visit Uruguay. The foreign minister said that bilateral relations have not deteriorated in the wake of the incident between Ambassador Joaquin Mas Martinez and Defense Minister Lieutenant General Hugo Medina.

[Begin recording] [Barrios] Cuban Deputy Foreign Minister Ricardo Alarcon will visit Uruguay. We will be meeting beginning next week to analyze the issue.

[Unidentified reporter] Will the Uruguayan government put forward a proposal or adopt a position on the subject?

[Barrios] No, we will analyze the situation and we will see the outcome of the conversation.

[Reporter] Have bilateral relations deteriorated since this incident?

[Barrios] No.

[Reporter] Did the Uruguayan government lodge a protest?

[Barrios] The Uruguayan government did lodge a protest.

[Reporter] Did the protest specifically mention the ambasador; that is, did it ask for his replacement?

[Barrios] No sir. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Comments on 'Flexible' Policies

PY1806165988 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1306 GMT 18 Jun 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Jun (NA)—Uruguayan Foreign Minister Luis Barrios Tassano has described Uruguayan foreign policy as "pluralist, multifaceted, nationalist, and flexible," emphasizing that flexibility "is the only response to pragmatically adapt ourselves to a reality that is materializing beyond our will."

Lecturing at the Argentine Council for International Relations [Consejo Argentino de Relaciones Internacionales], the Uruguayan foreign minister said yesterday that flexibility in diplomatic relations "is essential for a small country like Uruguay with little possibility of influencing international developments."

Barrios Tassano said that "in the end, our adaptability permits us to domestically control the consequences of events foreign to our reality, and for this reason our foreign policy contributes to support a peaceful change, which represents a priority objective of the transition government of President Sanguinetti."

The Uruguayan foreign minister reasserted the Uruguayan decision to support the Argentine claim of territorial sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands archipelago. He emphasized that the political agreement between the two countries "would not have become an encouraging reality if a strong unity between our peoples and our governors did not exist."

Barrios Tassano then mentioned the importance of foreign policy as a basic tool to promote the country's economic and social development." [quotation mark as published]. He also reasserted the importance of gaining access to the financial and economic international market "through a dynamic international integration effort."

Venezuela

Lusinchi Returns From Trip To Europe, Egypt

PA1806035288 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Jun 88

[Text] President Lusinchi has said on arriving in the country following his 14-day trip to several European countries and Egypt that he is proud to be Venezuelan. He said he is pleased with the way the various countries received Venezuelan proposals.

The Viasa DC-10 that was carrying President Jaime Lusinchi and his retinue entered Venezuelan airspace today at 1630 and was then escorted by four Mirages and two F-16's. When the plane landed Interior Minister Jose Angel Ciliberto greeted the chief of state. President Lusinchi was paid military honors and received a 21-gun salute.

The president then went to the administrative building of Simon Bolivar International Airport where important national government officials, ministers, the apostolic nuncio, and the heads of diplomatic missions welcomed him.

Once this ceremony was over, and shortly before leaving for Miraflores Palace, President Lusinchi spoke with newsmen and reported briefly on his trip.

[Begin Lusinchi recording] I am very proud to be a Venezuelan. I am also very satisfied with the success of the high level talks [words indistinct] the particular aspects of this very important trip. These were two very busy weeks, but also two very educational weeks because we had the opportunity to enrich ourselves with a view of different cultures, very high levels of culture that, of course, have been significant throughout the history of mankind. Everybody has something to offer. [end recording]

It is possible that President Jaime Lusinchi will address the nation next week to report on the results of his trip.

Official Communique Rejects Alleged Accusations

PA1706161288 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 Jun 88

[Excerpt] The Energy and Mines Ministry has maintained that statements attributed to the Kuwaiti oil minister on Venezuelan production of condensates [condensados] could be interpreted as an attempt to exert pressure or threaten.

In an official communique disseminated to the press, the ministry states that under no circumstances will Venezuela allow itself to be subjected to any kind of pressure or threats. It adds that Venezuela deplores and rejects such statements which allege the violation of an OPEC quota of condensates production. [passage omitted]

Suriname

Shankar, Arron To Continue Peace Talks

FL1606183088 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 16 Jun 88

[Text] In the National Assembly yesterday, President Ramsewak Shankar has personally declared that the peace negotiations between the Suriname Government and the jungle commando will continue.

The president made this statement in the wake of remarks by the military authority last Monday [words indistinct] on the intended negotiations.

The president said that preparations for the negotiations are almost finished.

According to President Shankar, in the future, all information on East Suriname will be handled by the president and vice president [Henck Arron] of the Republic. He asked everyone to avoid commenting on East Suriname in the national [word indistinct] and he also called on the [word indistinct] for cooperation.

The Committee of Christian Churches told the SURINAME NEWS AGENCY that its delegation and that of the government will [words indistinct] for the negotiations. Date and place of the negotiations have not yet been announced, as well as the composition of the delegations.

Lachmon Calls for Replacement of Officials

FL1606190788 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 16 Jun 88

[Text] Chairman of the National Assembly Jaggernath Lachmon, ending a public meeting of this institution yesterday, called on the government to replace certain officials.

Lachmon said there are officials who do not work properly and are almost never available [words indistinct]. The chairman of the assembly said although the former government ministers have been replaced [words indistinct], 90 percent of the old [word indistinct] remains. There are officials who do not wish to cooperate but still hold on to their positions, according to Lachmon.

He further added that he is not calling for their dismissal but that they be transferred to other departments.